2
BLUE WORLD
PIKA GRAPHIC
YUKINOBU HOSHINO

新装版

# ブルー・ワールド

THE BLUE WORLD

星野之宣

HOSHINO YUKINOBU

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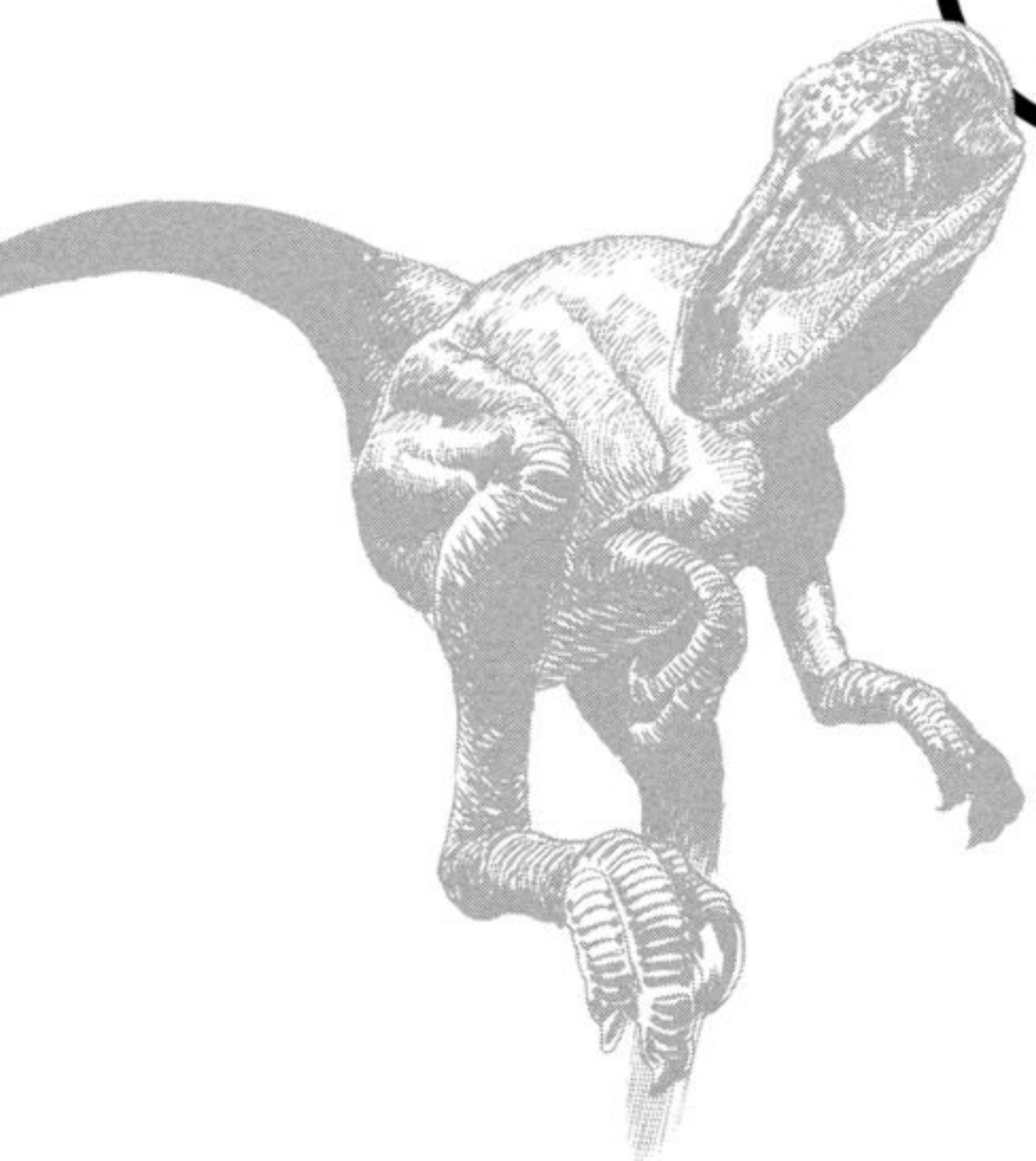

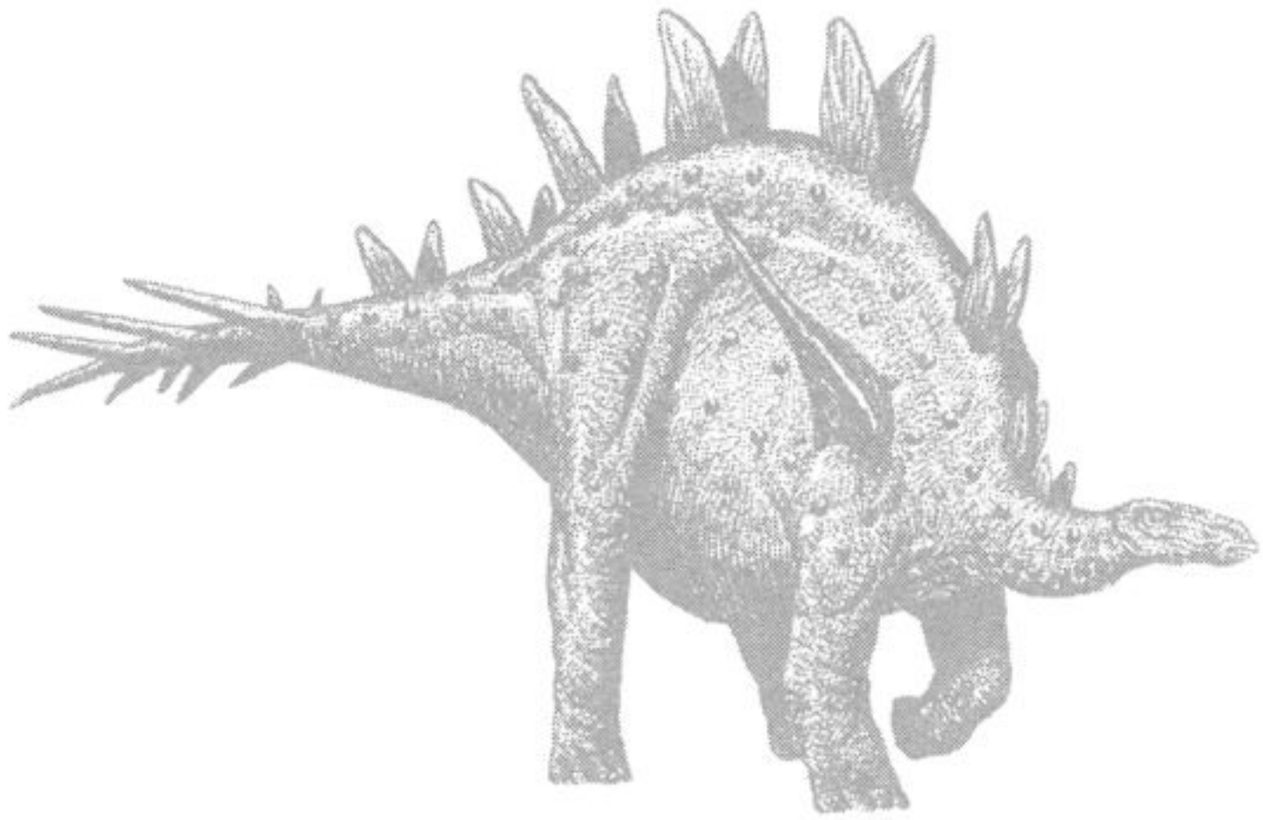

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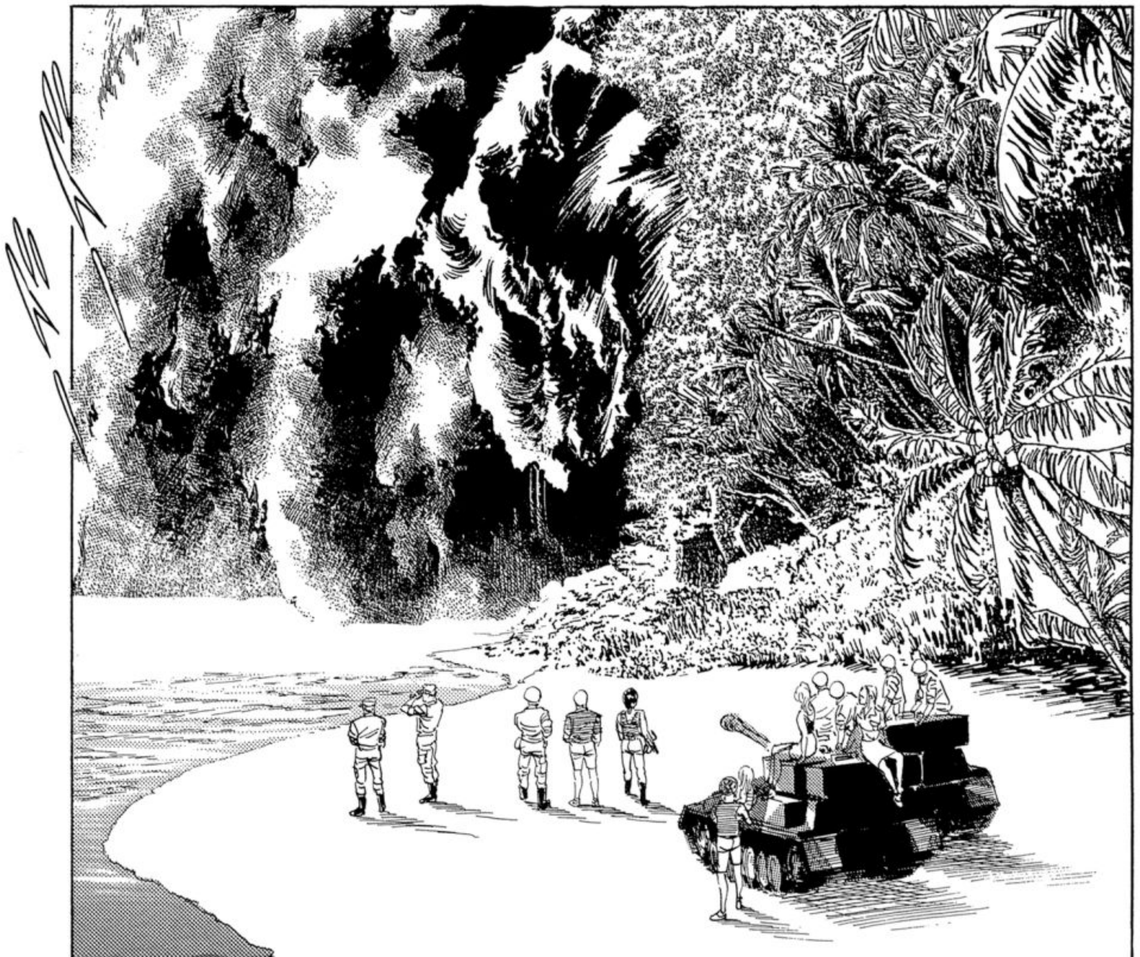
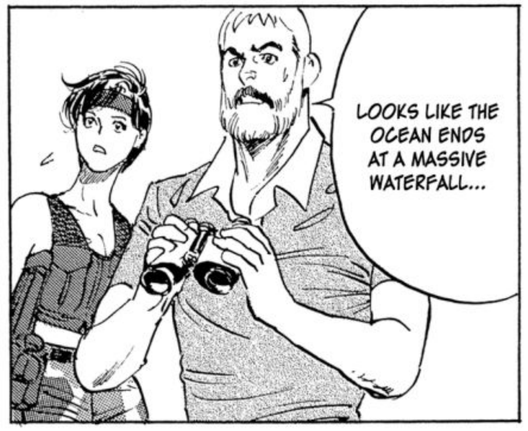
## Chapter 10

# The Cataract



THE ONLY WAY TO GO WEST FROM HERE IS TO CLIMB UP THROUGH THE JUNGLE, AND CROSS THE RIVER UPSTREAM OF THE WATERFALL...


LOOKS LIKE THE OCEAN ENDS AT A MASSIVE WATERFALL...

WELL, WE'RE FINALLY GOING ON FOOT. LET'S HAVE A MEAL FIRST.

THIS IS THE LAST OF OUR FOOD. OUR LOAD'S GONNA BE A LOT LIGHTER NOW.

IF THIS IS THE LAST OF THE FOOD, THEN WHAT ARE WE GONNA EAT FROM NOW ON?

WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH WHATEVER'S AROUND US AND EAT IT.

THAT'S IF WE'RE NOT EATEN FIRST...

WE'LL HAVE TO ABANDON THE TANKS HERE, BUT WE MIGHT STILL HAVE A USE FOR THE REMAINING FUEL. TRANSFER IT TO THE TANKS AND CARRY IT, SERGEANT SCHMITT.

FINE...

カミャ！

NOW, PAT, YOU HAVE TO EAT SO THAT YOU CAN WALK. NOW EAT UP, FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES!

BUT IT'S HOT, AND WE'VE BEEN EATING THE SAME THING FOR DAYS...

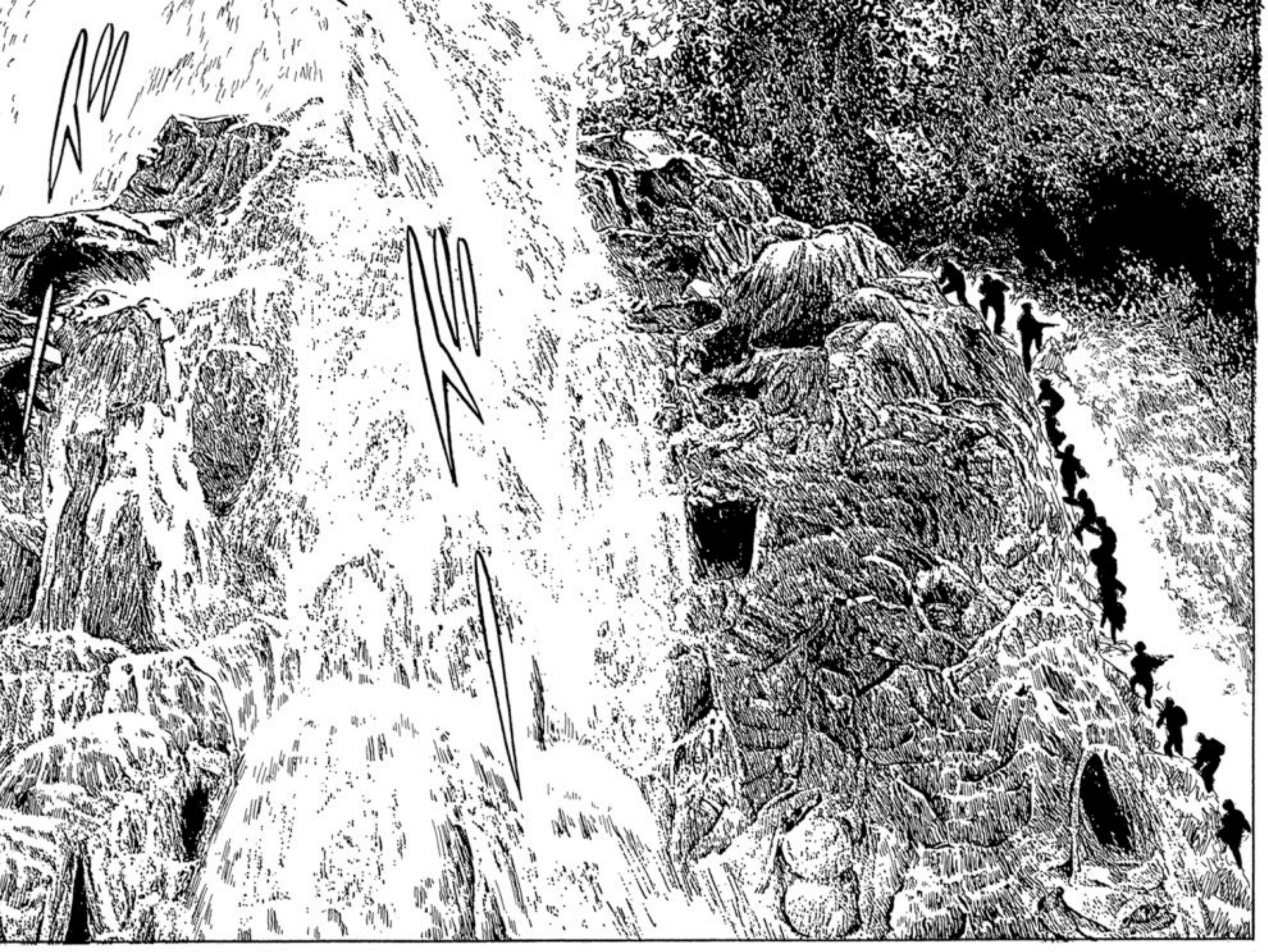
PAT, LOOK HOW MUCH YOU'VE LEFT OVER!

WE'LL CARRY THE MUNITIONS IN SHIFTS, THREE AT A TIME. PROFESSOR AND HARRY, TAKE A GUN. MARGIE, TAKE A PISTOL.

WE'RE GOING TO STAY AS CLOSE TO THE WATERFALL AS WE CAN! IT'LL BE ROCKY, BUT WE'LL HAVE SOLID FOOTING, AND THERE SHOULDN'T BE TOO MANY DINOSAURS AROUND!

LET'S MOVE OUT!

STAY CLOSE BEHIND ME, PAT!



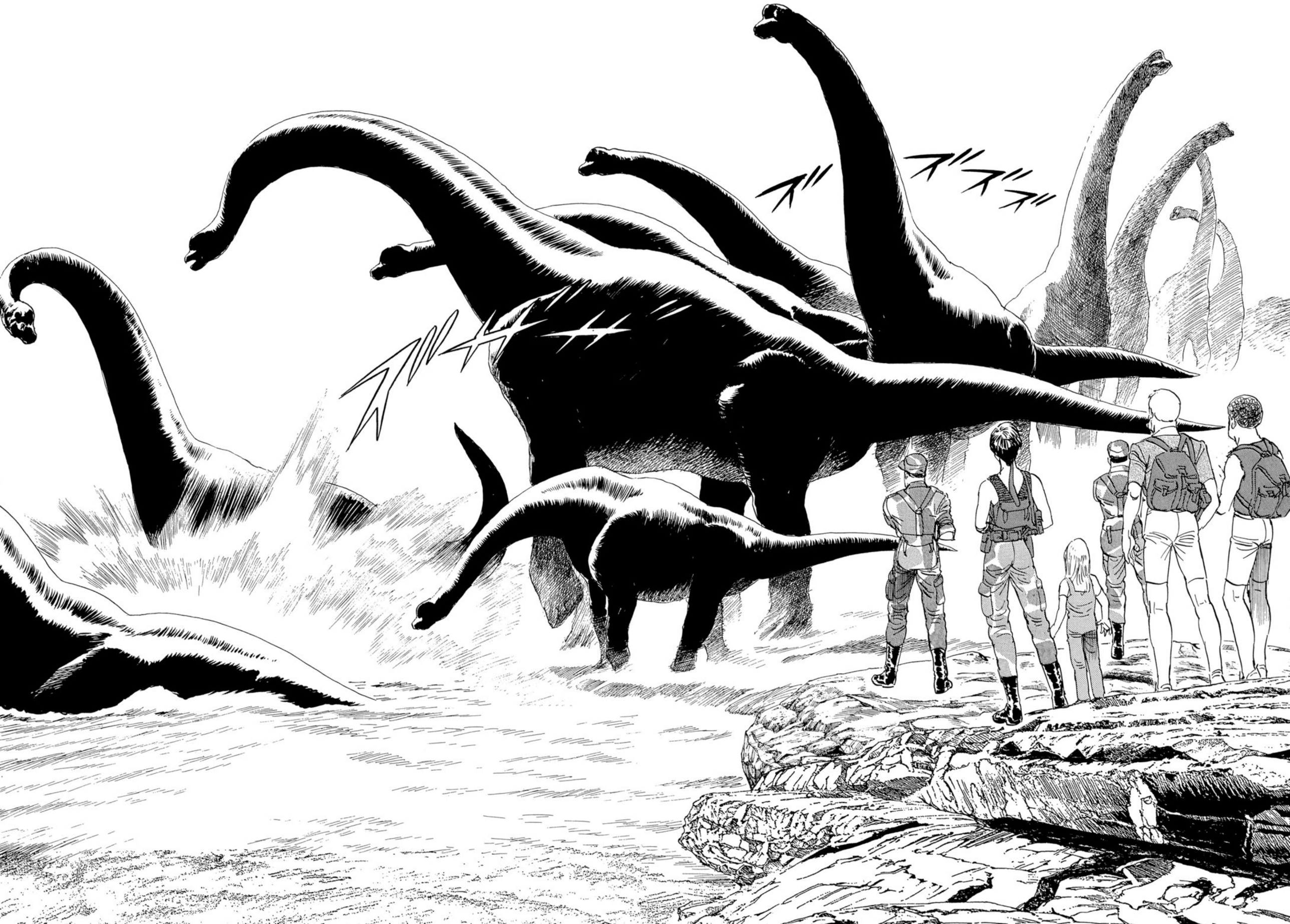
WAAAAA AAAUGH!

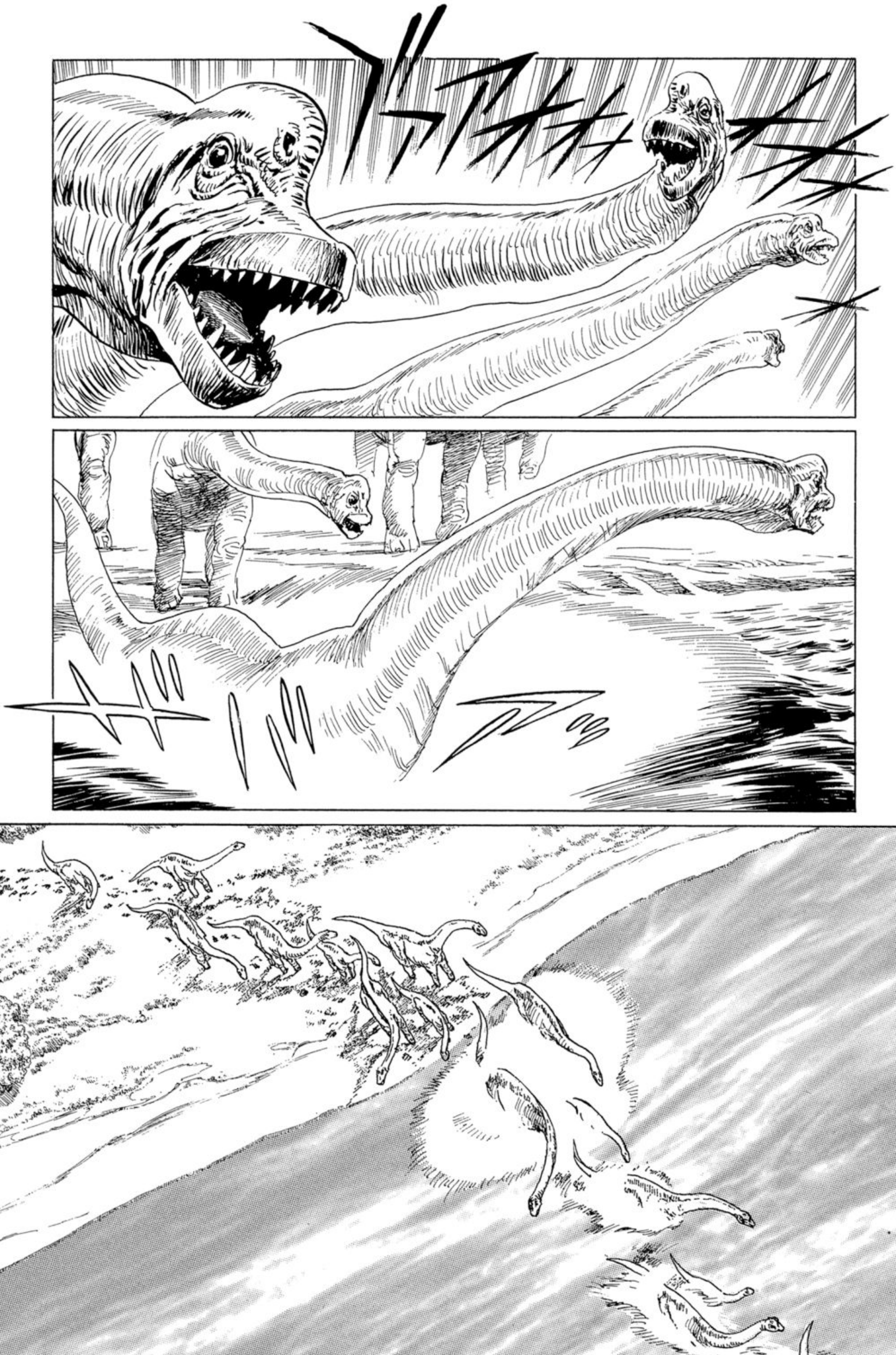
ANCESTOR OF BIRDS...?

THAT'S THE FIRST BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL I'VE SEEN IN THIS WORLD...

SKRUUU

ARCHAEOPTERYX! THE ANCESTOR OF BIRDS!





IT'S A SAUROPOD OF THE BRA-CHIOSAURIDAE FAMILY! THEY'RE CROSSING THE RIVER IN A HERD...!!

GIRAF-FATITAN!

!

DAMMIT! THEY'RE COMING RIGHT FOR US!!

U... UTAH-RAPTOR!?

WAAAAA AAUGH!

PAT! OVER HERE!

AIIIIEE EEEE!

JEAN!

PAT!

T-THE CURRENT'S TOO FAST! GET THE ROPE! QUICKLY!!

SHIT! WHY'D THEY HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SO STUPID?

LIEU-TENANT HART!

IT'S NOT REACHING!

S... STOP! DON'T SAVE ME, SAVE PAT AND JEAN! THEY'LL FALL OFF THE WATER-FALL AT THIS RATE...!!

W... WHAT IS THIS!?

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S WEAK! IT'S BEING CARRIED BY THE CURRENT!

THANK GOOD-NESS! THERE WAS A DINOSAUR SWIMMING THERE!

W... WAIT! SOMETHING SEEMS STRANGE ABOUT THAT DINOSAUR...

COME ON! PLEASE! SWIM!!

I... IT'S TOO LATE! THEY'RE GONNA FALL...

IT'S OKAY! DON'T GIVE UP! JUST SWIM!!

WAAUGH!

THANKS... YOU REALLY FOUGHT HARD, DIDN'T YOU?

JEAN, LOOK! THIS GIRAFFATITAN LOOKS SICK...

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE A WHILE...

I THINK THEY'RE SAYING THEY'RE GONNA GO FURTHER UPSTREAM AND BUILD A RAFT TO CROSS OVER TO HERE.

IS IT JUST GONNA DIE, AFTER IT SAVED OUR LIVES...?

PAT!

WHAT'S THE CAUSE? AND WHAT ARE THOSE TUMOR-LIKE THINGS?

IT'S DEAD...

IT'S SKIN CANCER.

PROBABLY FROM ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE SAME AS THE UTAHRAPTOR, PROFESSOR.

SKIN CANCER!?

THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD IS WEAKENING!

AND THE MAGNETIC FIELD SUSTAINS THE "FILTERS" THAT PROTECT THE EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT, LIKE THE VAN ALLEN BELT, THE PLASMASPHERE, AND THE OZONE LAYER!

FIGURED WHAT!?

I FIGURED AS MUCH...

AND THE BIGGER THE ANIMAL, THE MORE IT PREFERS TO TRAVEL IN WIDE OPEN SPACES, AND THE MORE IT'S EXPOSED TO ULTRAVIOLET RAYS.

SAME WITH THE CARNIVORES THAT PREY ON IT.

THE SUN IS CONSTANTLY BEAMING DOWN ULTRAVIOLET RAYS AND HARMFUL RADIATION. IF THE EARTH LOSES ITS FILTERS, THEY'LL REACH THE SURFACE AND AFFECT THE EARTH'S ORGANISMS.

JUST LIKE THE EXTINCTION OF THE DINOSAURS IN THE LATE CRETACEOUS PERIOD, THE LATE JURASSIC PERIOD WAS A TIME WHERE MOST OF THE SUPERMASSIVE DINOSAURS AND LARGE CARNIVORES DIED OUT.

I PROPOSED THE THEORY OF A SUPERVOLCANO, BUT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN OTHER CAUSES, EVEN OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

IF THE LOSS OF GEOMAGNETISM CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE LARGEST SPECIES FROM THE INSIDE...

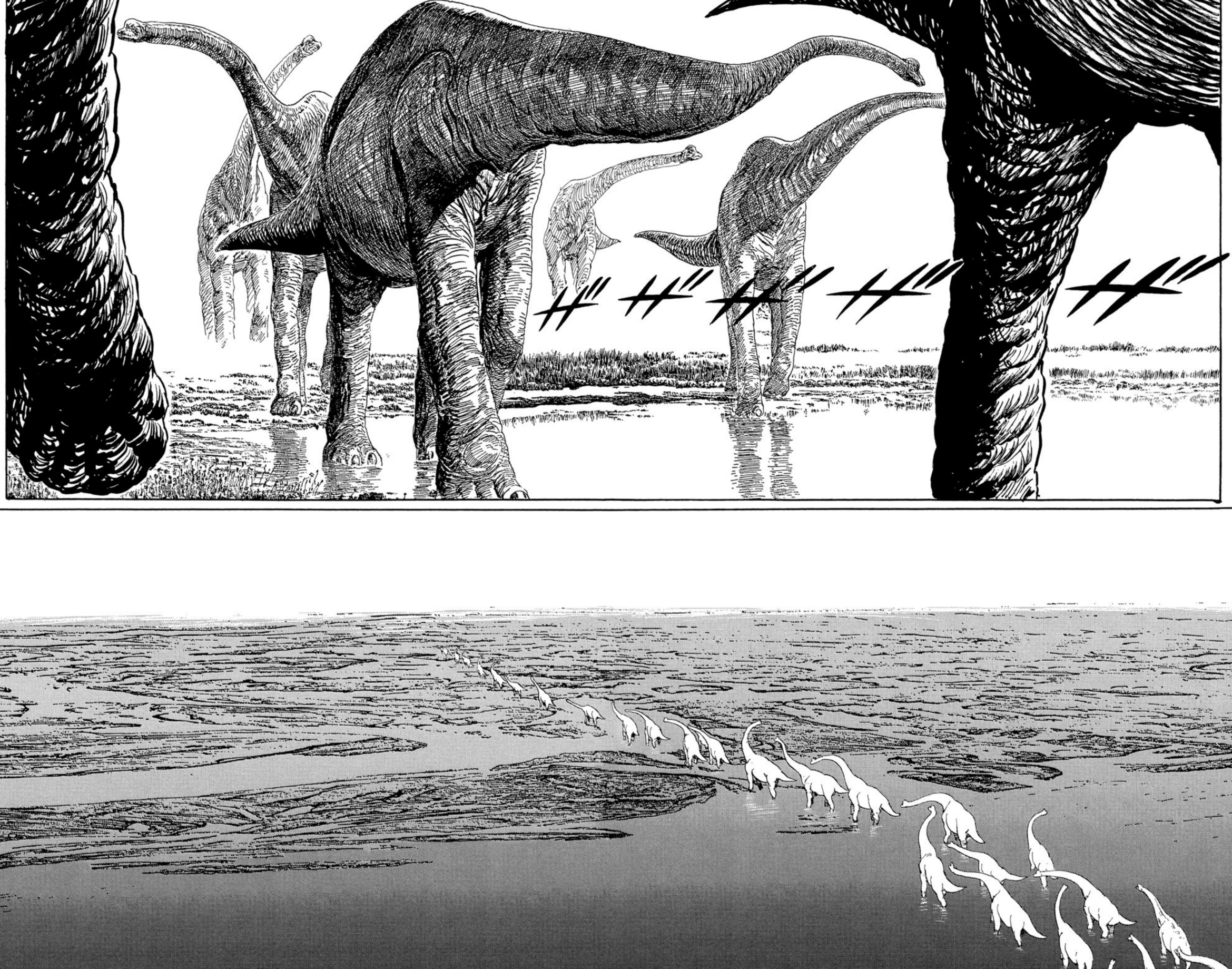
B... BUT PROFESSOR, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THE ULTRAVIOLET RAYS WILL AFFECT US, TOO!?

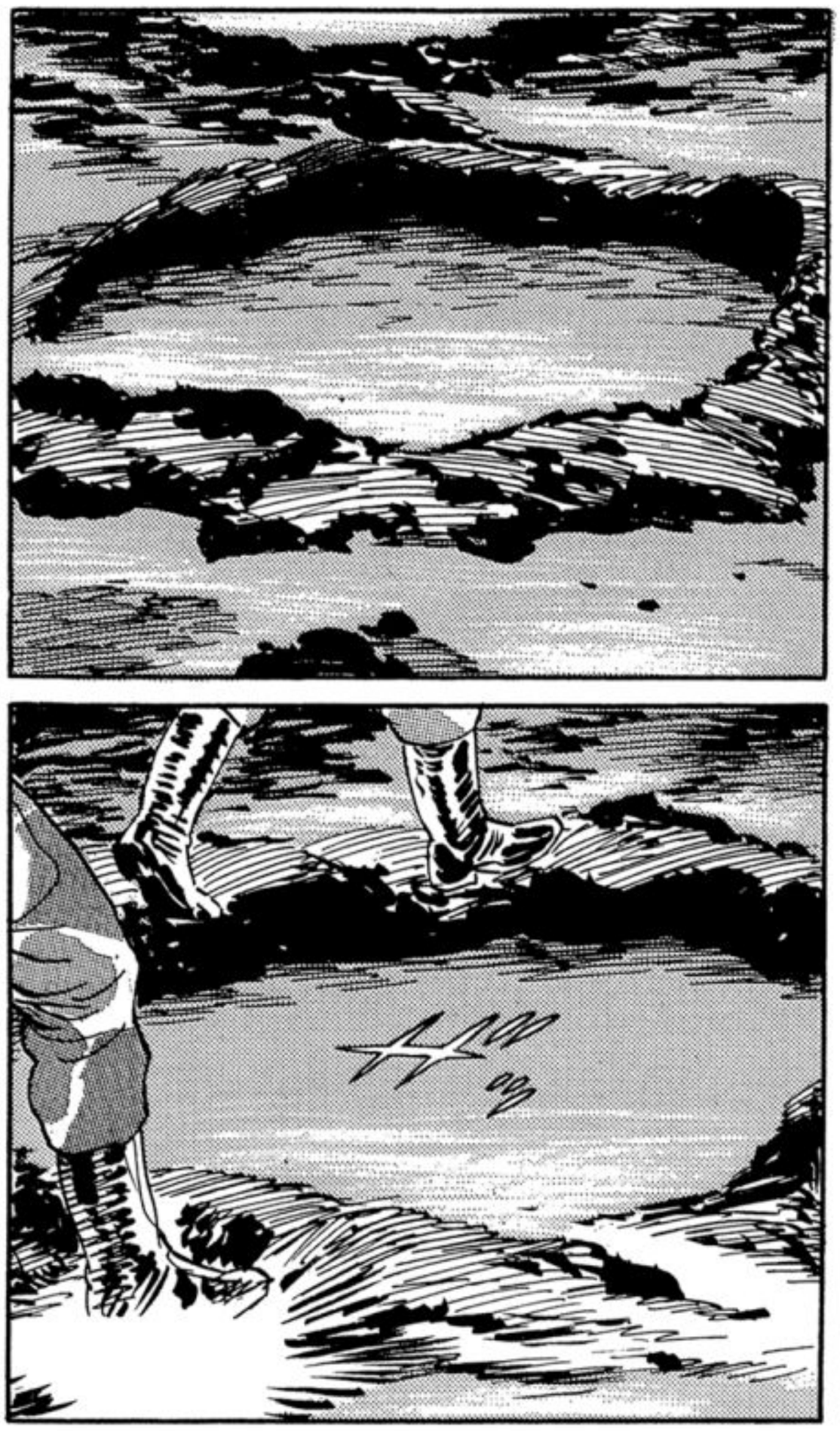
IF WE CUT ACROSS THE CONTINENT THROUGH THE JUNGLE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE...

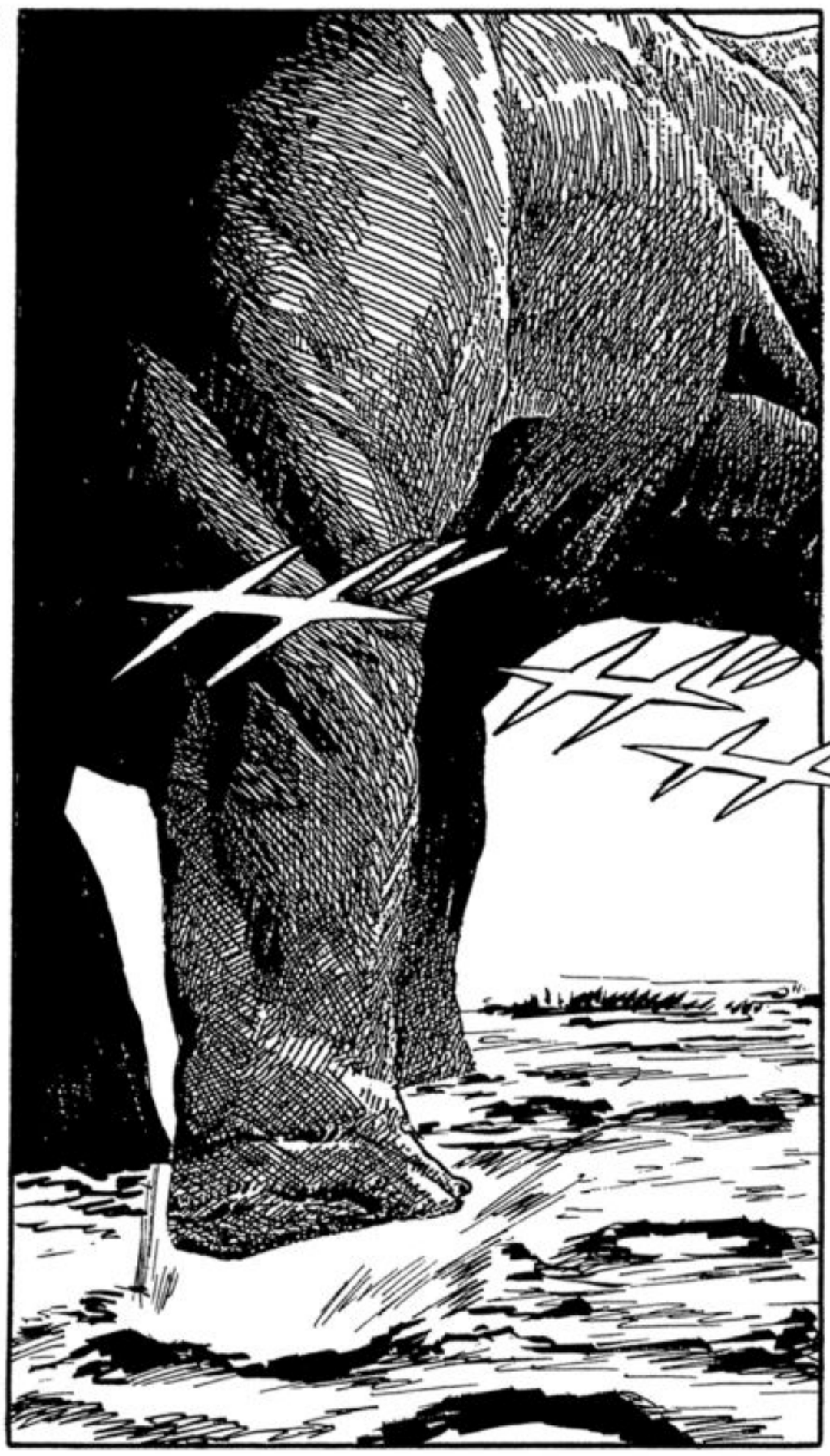
I CHOSE TO MARCH ACROSS THE CONTINENT BECAUSE I HAD A HUNCH ABOUT THIS.

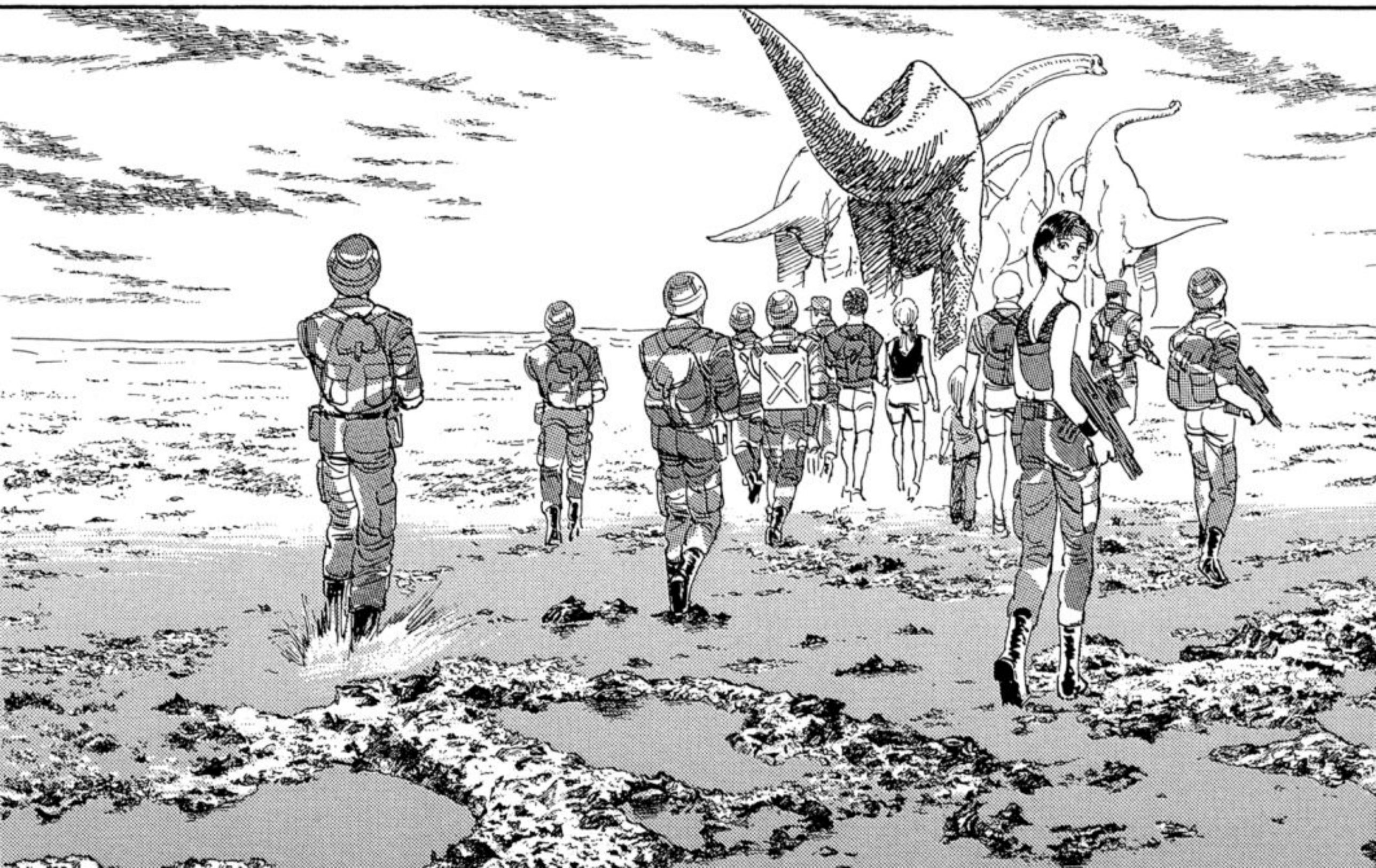
## Chapter II

# The Swamp









COME ON! WHY DO WE HAVE TO WALK OVER THESE HOLES!?

MARGIE!

AHH...

WELL, WHICHEVER WAY WE'RE GOING, I'D LIKE TO WALK SOMEWHERE THAT WON'T GET MY SHOES WET...

THAT HERD OF GIRAFFATITANS SEEMS TO BE HEADING WEST. THEIR FOOTPRINTS WILL BE A GOOD GUIDE, SO WE DON'T WIND UP IN ANY BOTTOMLESS SWAMP.

MARGIE?

...

GET THEM OFF ME! NOW!

THEY'RE LEECHES! THEY WON'T COME OFF!

ANN, GIVE ME YOUR SMOKE.

UGH! ME, TOO!

I NEED SOME, TOO...

WE SHOULD DISINFECT THOSE WOUNDS WITH CREAM, TOO...

HOLD ON. I DON'T HAVE MANY CIGS LEFT, AND I'D LIKE TO SMOKE A FEW OF THEM...

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'D MAKE IT OUT OF THE SWAMP BY NIGHTFALL, EVEN IF WE LEFT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

AND THERE'S NO SHELTER HERE. IT MIGHT BE SAFER TO CROSS IT AT NIGHT, SO WE'RE NOT EXPOSED TO UV RAYS.

LIEUTENANT GROCK, IT'LL BE NIGHT SOON. WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD, AND WE CAN'T REST HERE.

SHOULDN'T WE HAVE WAITED UNTIL TOMORROW TO CROSS THE SWAMP?

I'M NOT GONNA ARGUE WITH YOU. I'M THE COMMANDER. WE'VE COME THIS FAR, SO WE HAVE TO PRESS ON.

BUT EVERYONE'S EXHAUSTED...

I'D LIKE A PIGGYBACK RIDE, TOO. I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP...

THANKS...

HERE, LET ME CARRY PAT FOR YOU, PROFESSOR.

THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO BE SUCKED TO DEATH BY LEECHES HERE!

HANG IN THERE, MARGIE!

DINOSAURS THAT BIG CAN'T WALK FOR TOO LONG WITHOUT FOOD, AND THERE AREN'T ANY TREES THEY CAN EAT HERE...

SO WHAT?

BUT THE HERD OF GIRAFFATITANS MADE IT ACROSS HERE.

I SURE AS HELL CAN'T WALK FOR DAYS ON END!

WELL, GIANT DINOSAURS DO WALK FASTER THAN US, BUT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT ANYWAY.

YUP!

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT WON'T BE A MATTER OF DAYS BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF THE SWAMP?

PAT, STAY WITH THE PROFESSOR...

JEAN?

I'M GETTING CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE. IT'S THOSE CARNIVORES FROM EARLIER TODAY. THEY CAME FOLLOWING THEIR PREY...

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE.

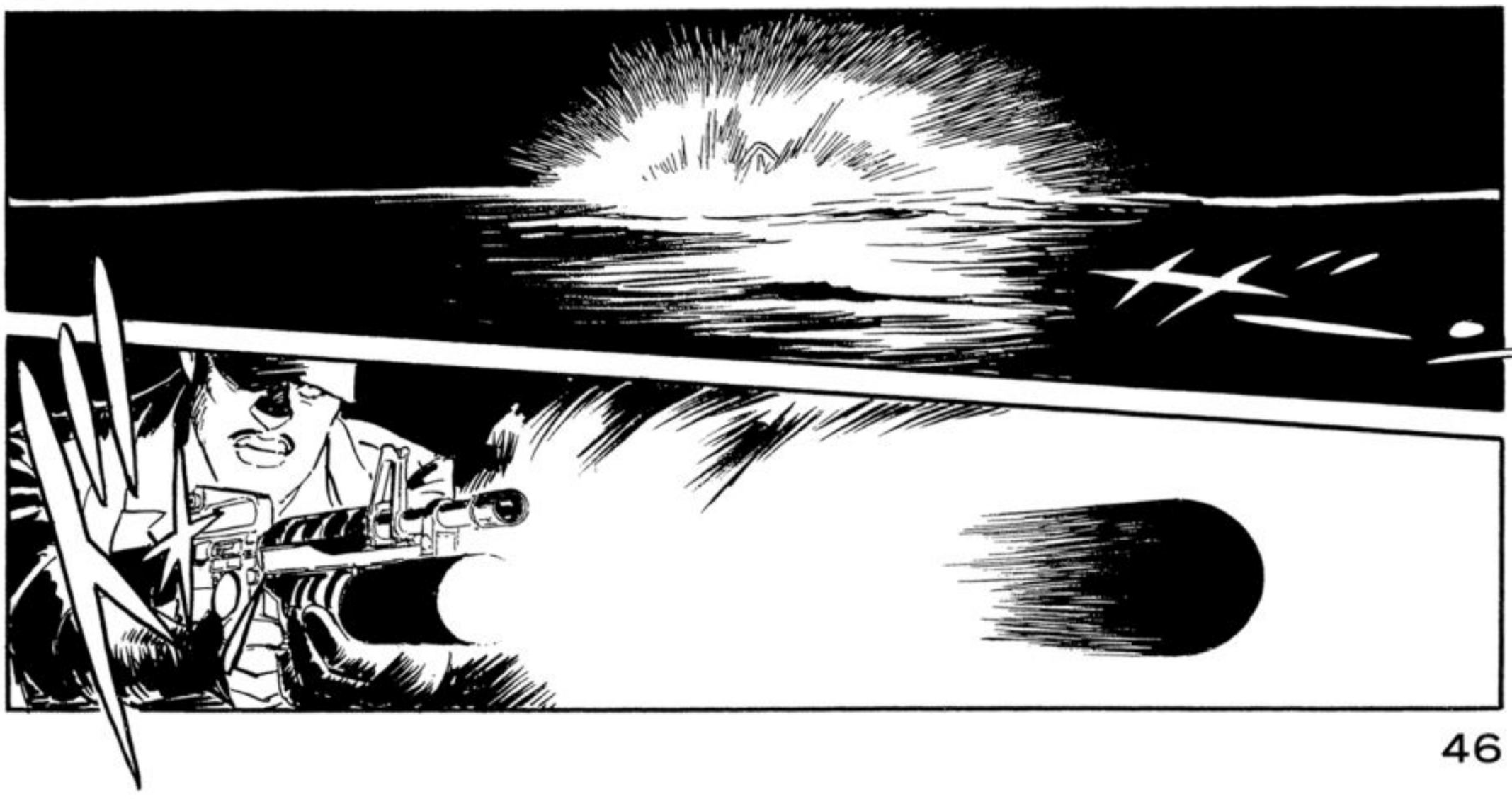
ROGER.

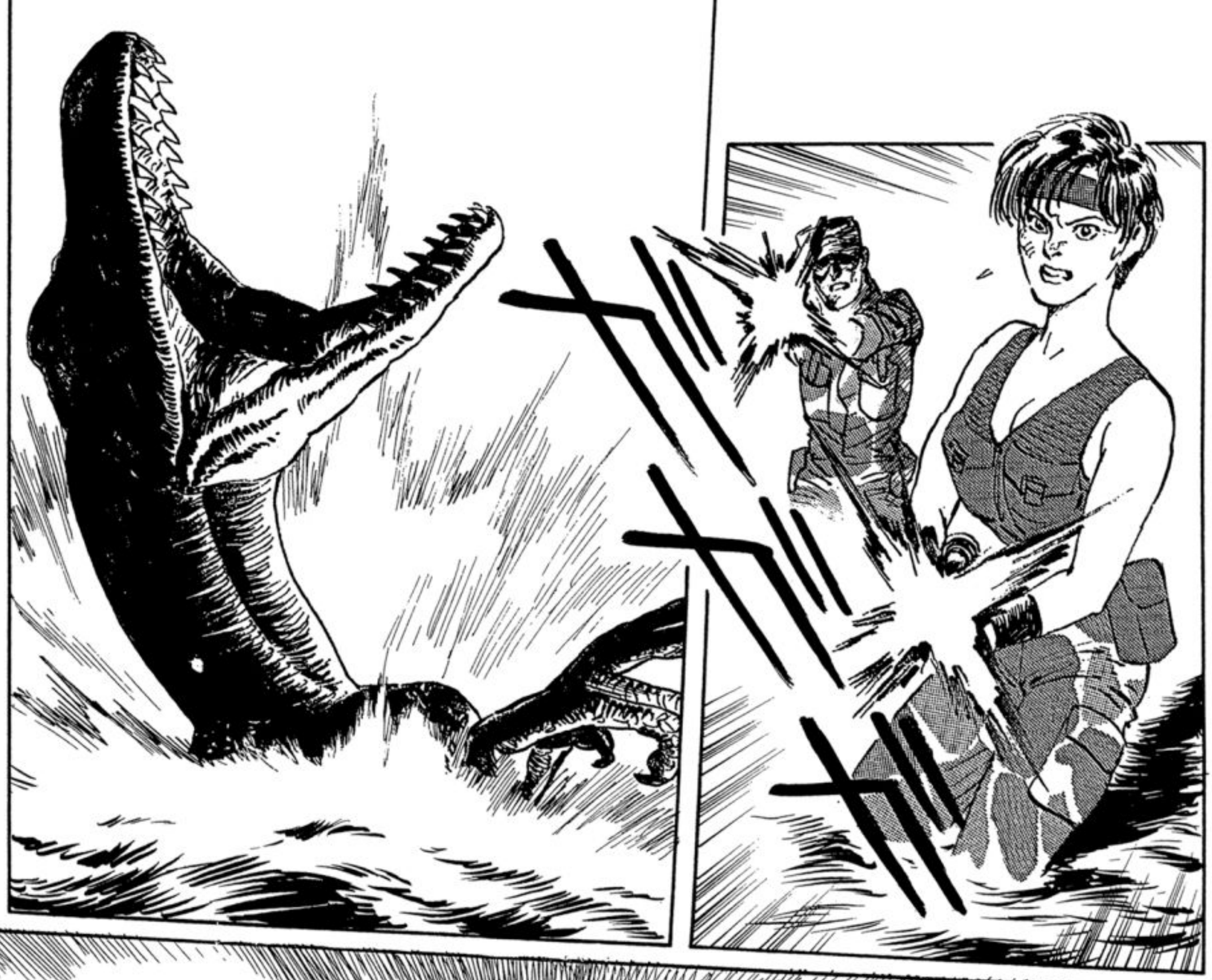
SERGEANT SCHMITT, GIVE ME ONE OF THE JERRY CANS YOU TOOK FROM THE TANK.

YES, SIR!

DUTCH!

ALRIGHT, NOW STAND BACK. IT'S SHOWTIME!





WAAAAA AAUGH!

AIIIEEE EEEE!

AHHHHHHH! AHHHHHH HHHH!!

GYAAAAAAH!!

キアア

アア

AHH!

PRO-
FESSOR!

I SAID I'M FINE! I CAN LOOK AFTER MY OWN GRANDDAUGHTER!

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF! YOU NEED TO LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD!

I... I'M FINE.

LET ME TAKE PAT!

STOP TREATING ME LIKE AN OLD MAN!

I'M SAYING THIS FOR PAT! GIVE HER TO ME!

...SORRY...

DON'T BREAK RANKS! IF WE DON'T STICK TOGETHER, WE'LL GET PICKED OFF AGAIN!

HEHE...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING A LOT MORE OBEDIENT. WHAT'D I TELL YOU?

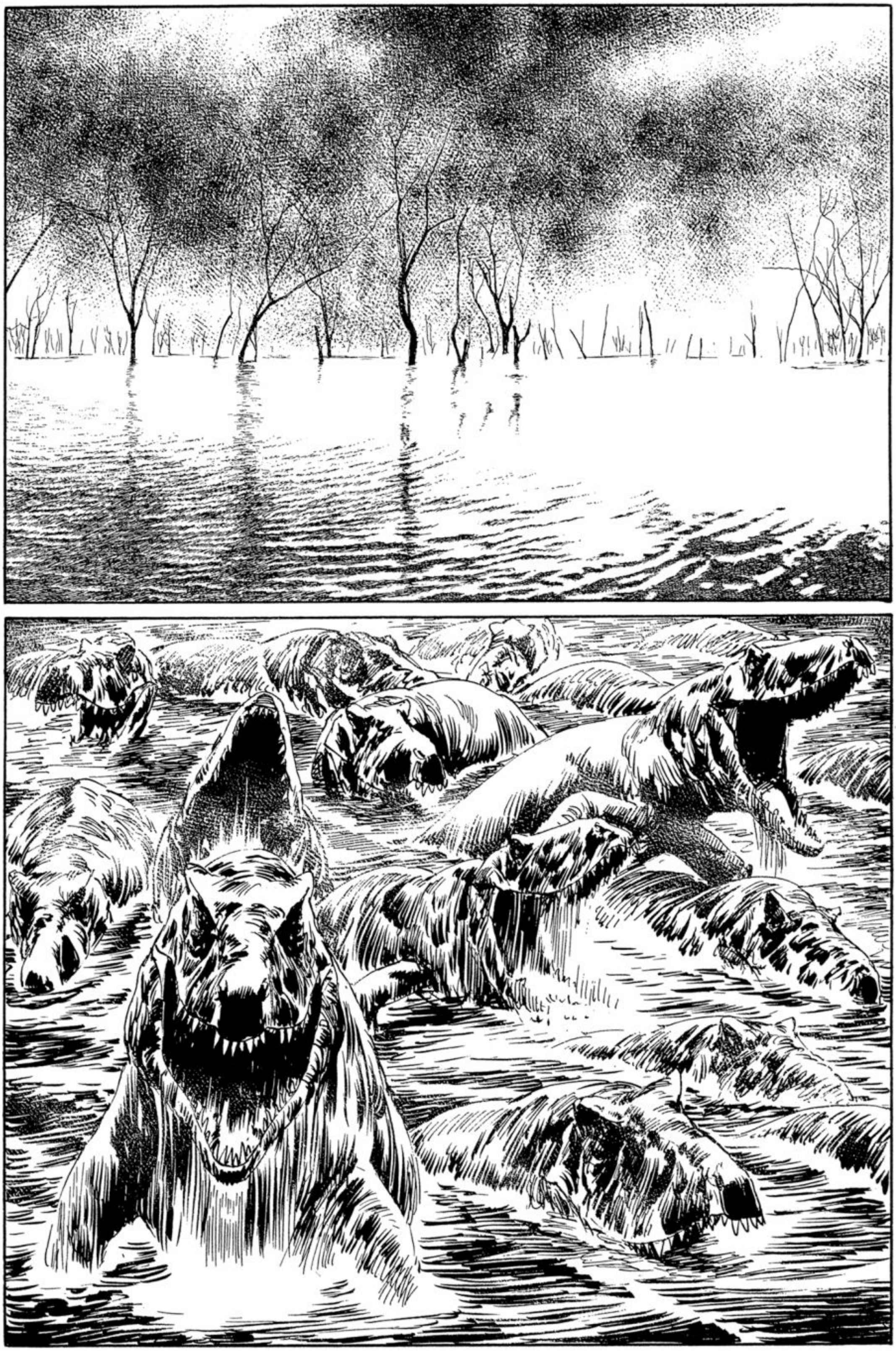
WE'RE ALL TIRED. WE'VE BEEN WALKING ALL NIGHT WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME, JEAN. I'M SORRY...

AND THAT DAMN LIEUTENANT GROCK IS TREATING THIS LIKE BOOT CAMP. AND PEOPLE HAVE DIED HERE!

I'M SORRY, TOO. COME OVER HERE, PAT.

I WON'T GIVE IN! NOT UNTIL IT'S OVER!



## Chapter 12

# The Highland

BRAAWWWRR!!

T... THERE'S MORE OF THEM OVER HERE!

AIIIIEE EEEEE!

EAT LEAD, YOU BIG-ASS FROGS!

THEY JUST KEEP COMING! BUT IF THEY'RE AMPHIBIANS, THAT MEANS WE'RE NEAR THE SHORE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

ALRIGHT, FOLLOW MY LEAD! WE'RE BREAKING THROUGH!

BRAAWWWRR!!

JERRY CAN, COMING UP!

THEY COULD FOLLOW US ONTO THE SHORE! SERGEANT SCHMITT!

HUH

HUH

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

NOT LIKE WE COULD TAKE ANOTHER STEP IF WE WANTED TO.

ALRIGHT, YOU'RE FREE TO REST HERE FOR HALF A DAY!

I'LL SLEEP LATER. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, JEAN?

PAT, GO REST WITH THE PROFESSOR.

ALRIGHT. WE'LL GO SECURE THE FOOD.

...

LIEUTENANT HART, DIDN'T YOU KEEP WATCH LAST NIGHT...?

I'LL KEEP WATCH.

FOOD?

I'M FINE!

WE LOST ONE OF OUR MEN AND USED UP SOME MUNITIONS TO THESE THINGS. WE'VE GOTTA MAKE BACK WHAT WE CAN.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN COOKED JUST ABOUT RIGHT.
...MMM, NOT BAD. TASTES LIKE TOUGH CHICKEN.

ゴク

...

URRRP!

DON'T SPIT IT OUT! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE IF WE DON'T EAT!

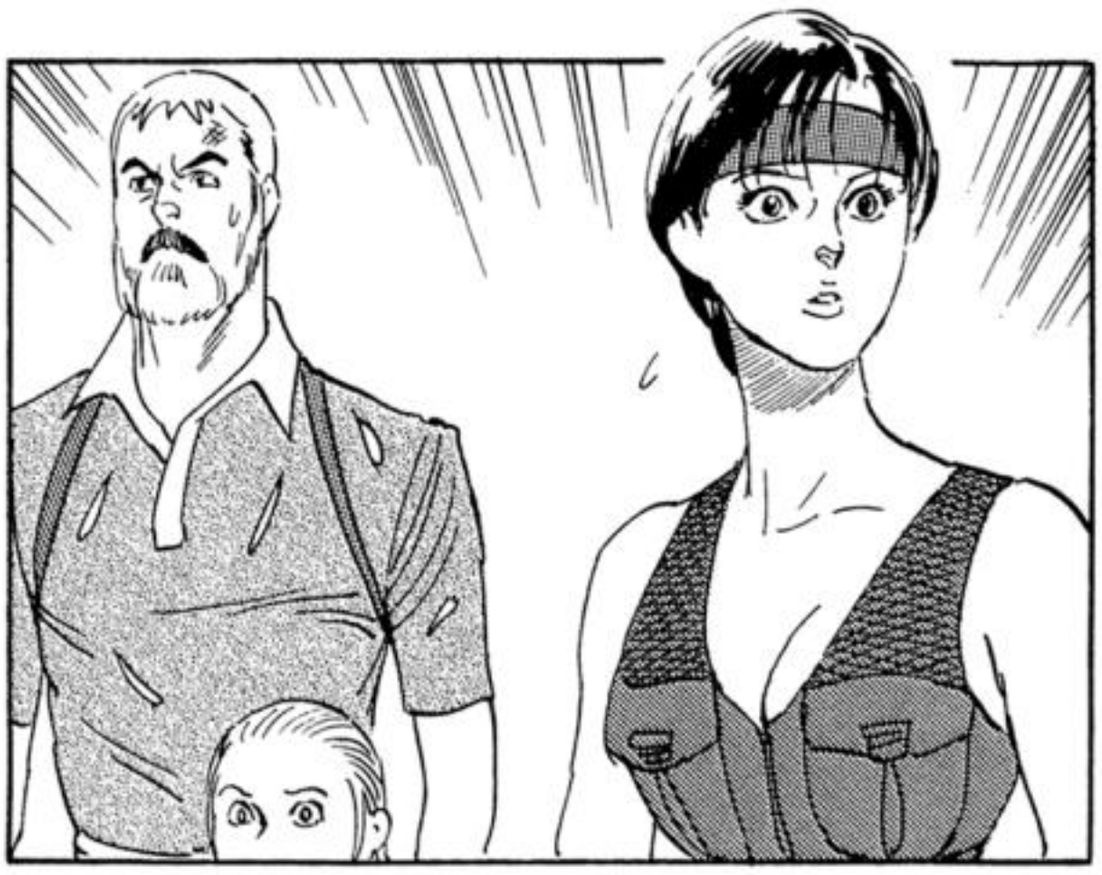
WE HAVE TO SWALLOW THIS WORLD TO SURVIVE!

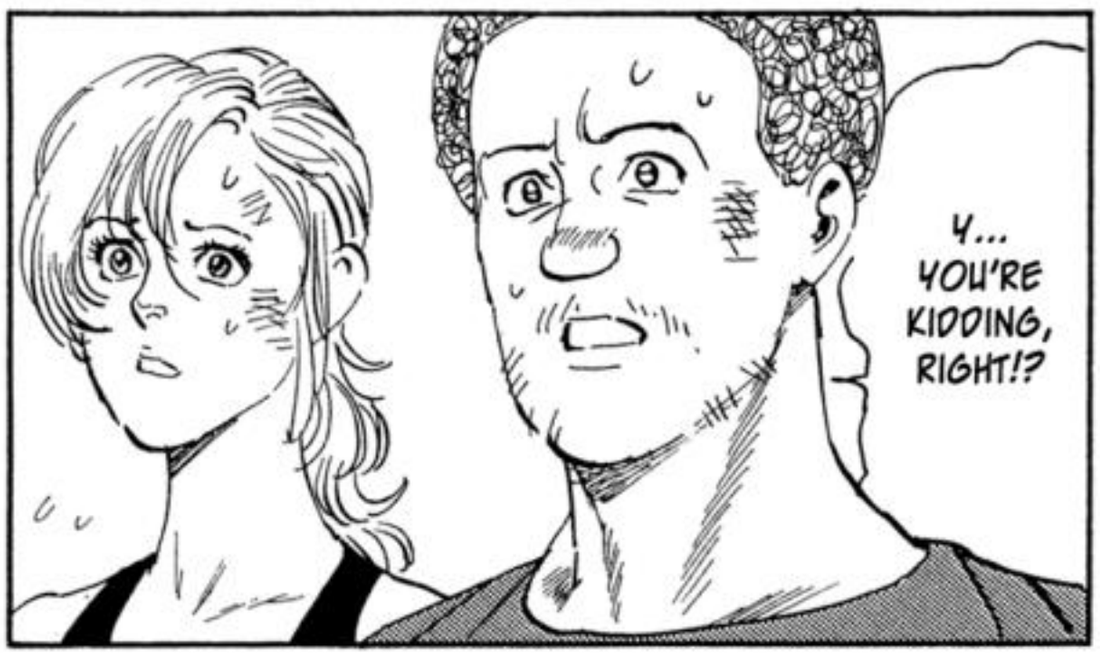
WE'LL HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING FROM THIS WORLD SOONER OR LATER, OR WE'LL DIE.

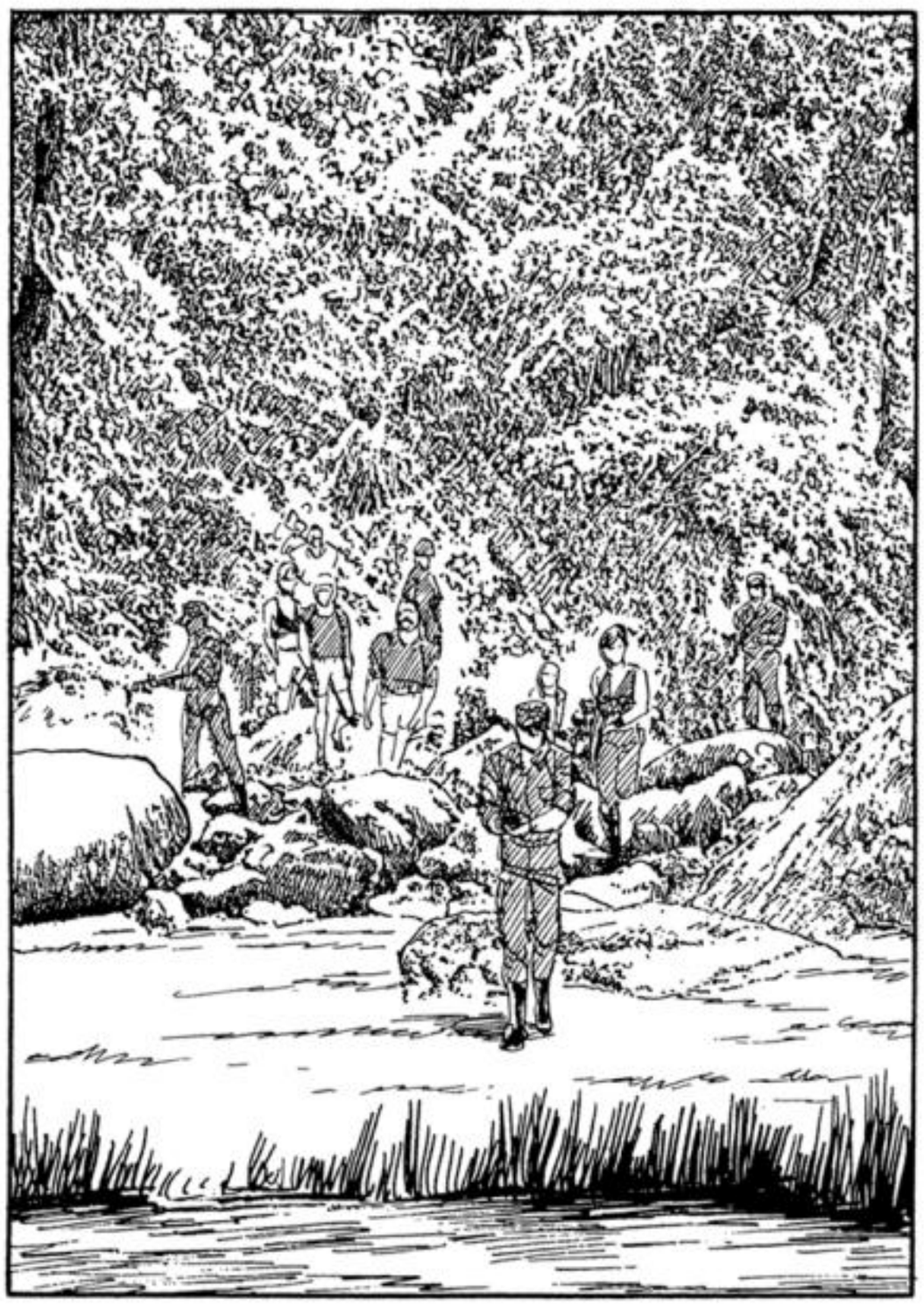
THERE ARE TRACKS HERE! THAT HERD OF GIRAFFATITANS MUST'VE PASSED THROUGH!

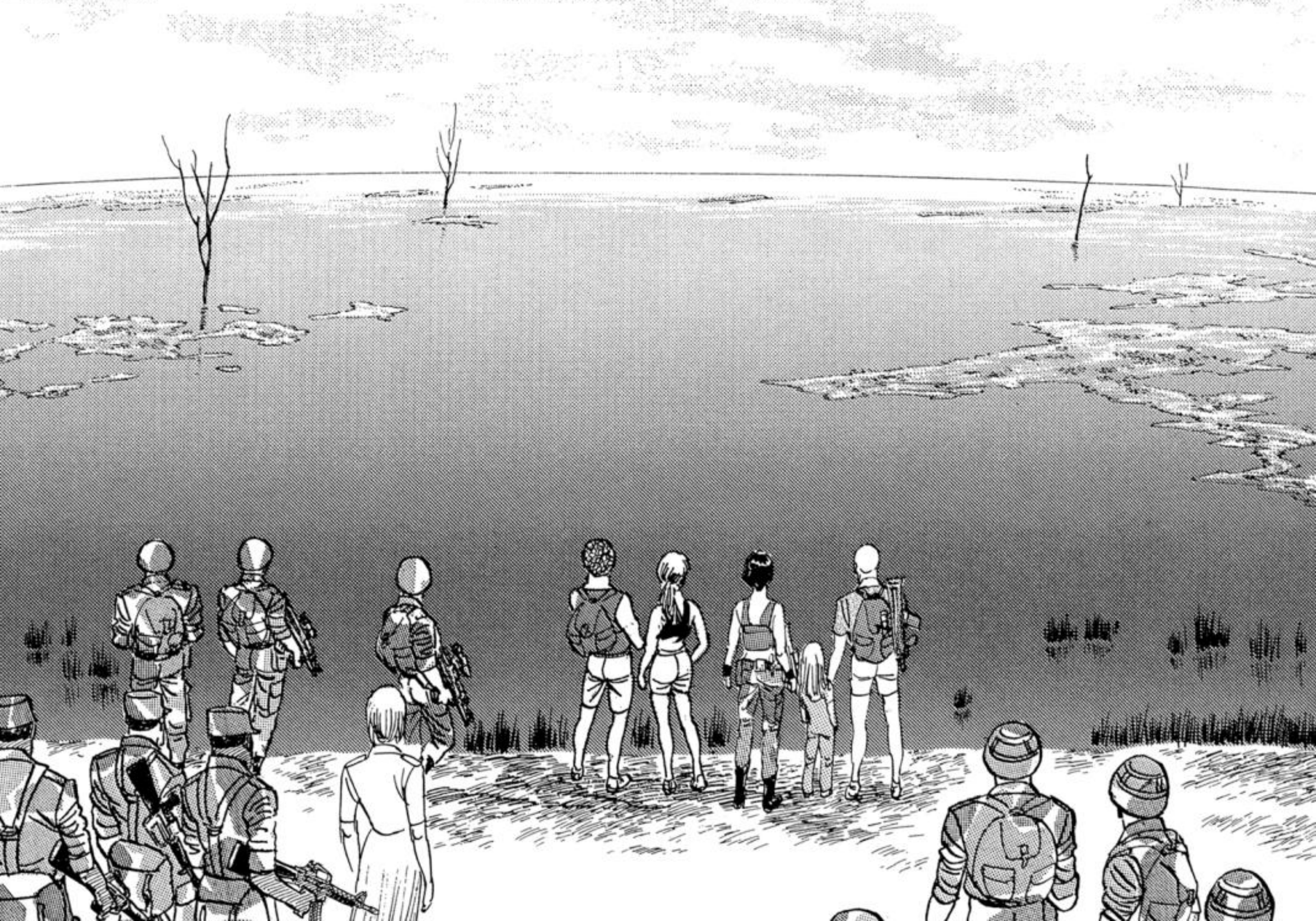
I'LL GO ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS IT'S ON DRY LAND!

IF THEY'RE STILL HEADING WEST, WE SHOULD FOLLOW THEM.




Y... YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!?





…

WE'LL WASTE TOO MUCH STAMINA GOING THROUGH ANOTHER ONE OF THESE SWAMPS. I THINK WE SHOULD CHANGE COURSE...

Azores Great Meteor Blue Hole

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THERE'S A HIGHLAND TO THE NORTH. THIS IS WHERE WE ARE ON THE MAP...

Tristan da Cunha Blue Hole

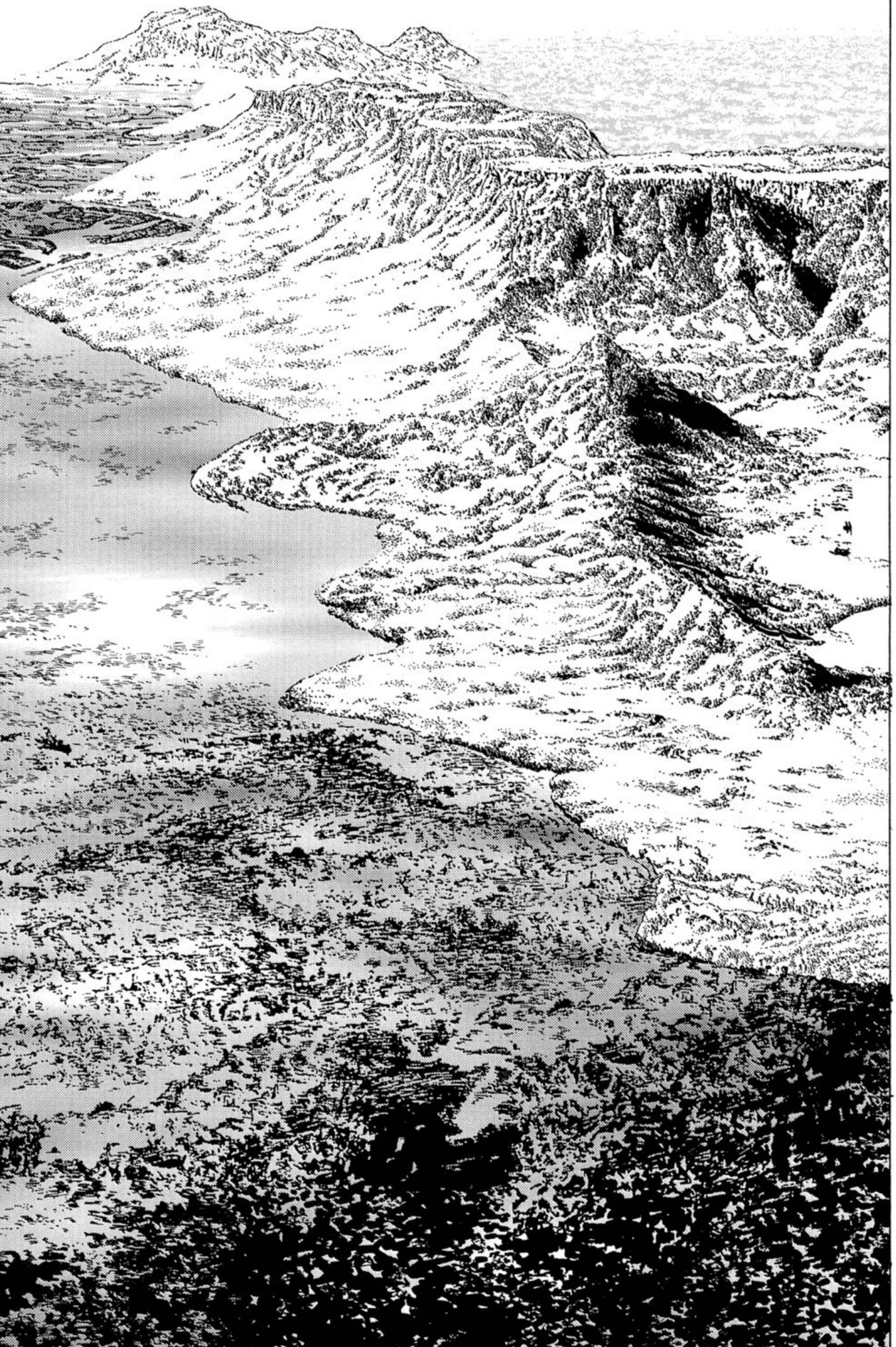
Karoo Blue Hole

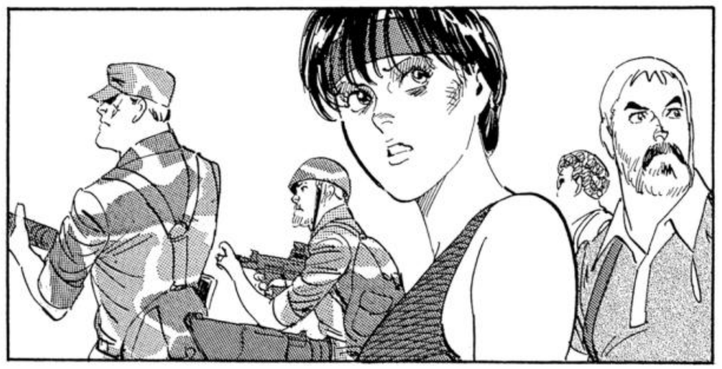
IF WE TAKE A BIT OF A DETOUR TO THE NORTH, AND FOLLOW THE HIGHLANDS TO THE WEST, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A LOSS ON OUR WAY TO THE TRISTAN DA CUNHA BLUE HOLE.

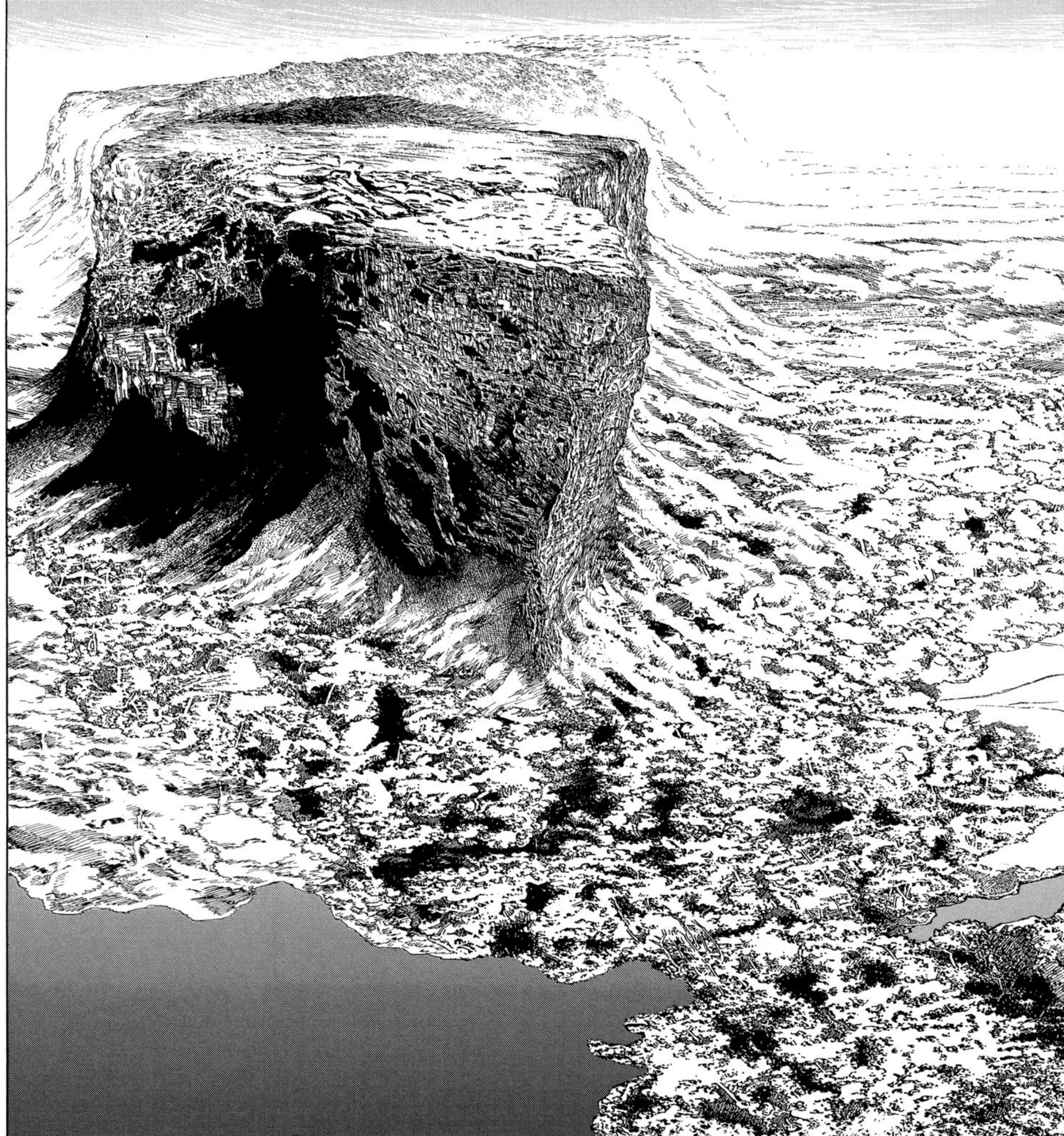
THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS...

I AGREE. IT'LL BE A BIT OUT OF THE WAY, BUT WE'LL MAKE PROGRESS QUICKER THAN GOING THROUGH THE SWAMP...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?







I'VE GOT THESE GREENS FOR A SALAD. I FOUND THEM GROWING AROUND THE AREA. THEY LOOK EDIBLE, SO THEY SHOULD HELP REPLENISH SOME VITAMINS.

SAME AS WHAT WE HAD FOR LUNCH. CARNIVOROUS AMPHIBIAN STEAK, JURASSIC-STYLE.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

MY FAVORITE!

JEAN, WHY DON'T YOU REST AND EAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT! MMM, THEY'RE GOOD!

I'M NOT PUSHING MYSELF. I HAVE BEEN TRAINED, YOU KNOW.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVEN'T GOT MUCH SLEEP. YOU'LL BE HURTING YOURSELF MENTALLY IF YOU KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF.

THANK YOU.

キィィィィィィ

キィィィ

BUT...

ガァァァ

WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?

IF YOU'RE GONNA CLIMB UP HERE, KILL ME FIRST.

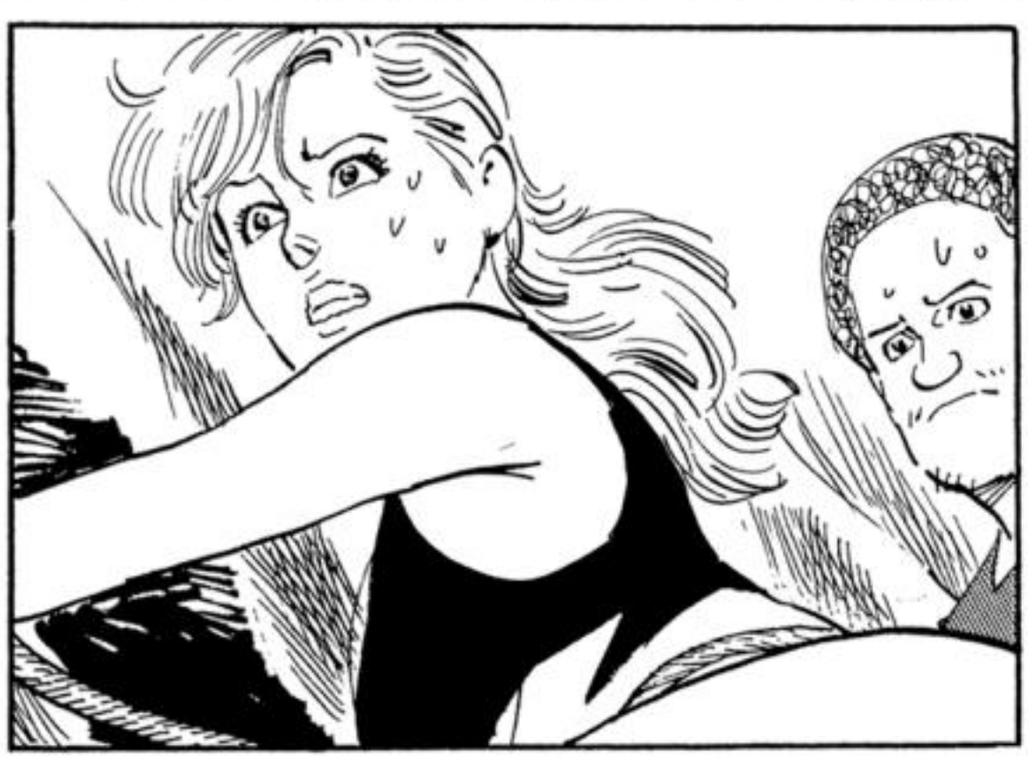
HUH?

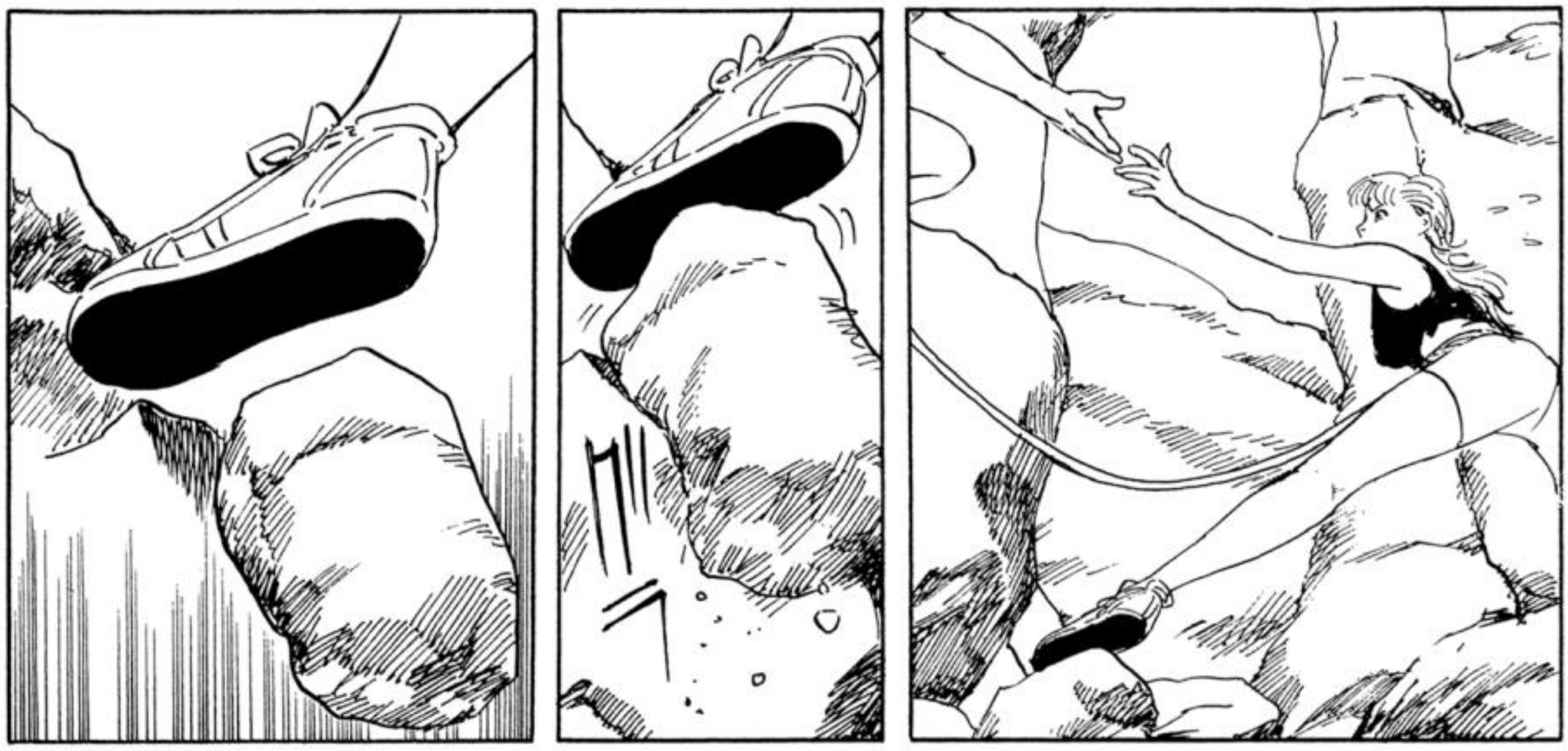
I MIGHT JUST DO THAT! OR WOULD YOU RATHER CROSS THE SWAMP ALONE?

HUUUH

HUH?

GRAB ON, MARGIE!





MARGIE!

AIIIIIIIIEE EEEEE!

HARRY! HOLD ON TIGHT!!

WHAT THE HELL!?

A... ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MARGIE!?

WAAUGH!

MARGIE! WHAT'S WRONG!?

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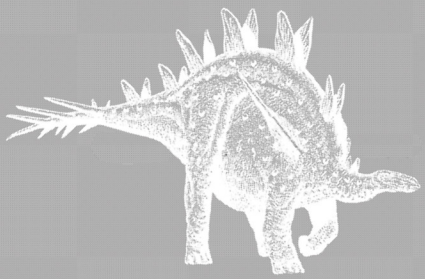
ガキン



## Chapter 13

# The Eden

MARG-
IE!!

92

SKRAAA... AAAWK...

MARG-IE!

SKRAAA AAAWK!

DON'T MESS WITH A TEXAS GAL!

AHHHHHH!

HOLD ON, MARGIE! I'LL PULL YOU UP!

Reeeek!
Reeeek!

...

WATCH OUT! THEY'RE RIGHT ABOVE US!

WE'VE GOT YOUNG TO PROTECT, TOO!!

WAAAA AAUGH!

GYAAAH!

SERGEANT SCHMITT!!

...

!

GWAAA AAUGH!

C... CUT THE ROPE!!

SER-GEANT!!

...

IF YOU FALL, WE'LL SUPPORT YOU!

IDIOT! IT'LL BE TWO PEOPLE'S WEIGHT!

I'VE GOT BAD FOOTING HERE! I CAN'T HOLD ON! CUT HIM OFF ME!!

PLEASE, DOCTOR! AT THIS RATE, ALL THE SOLDIERS BEHIND ME WILL FALL!

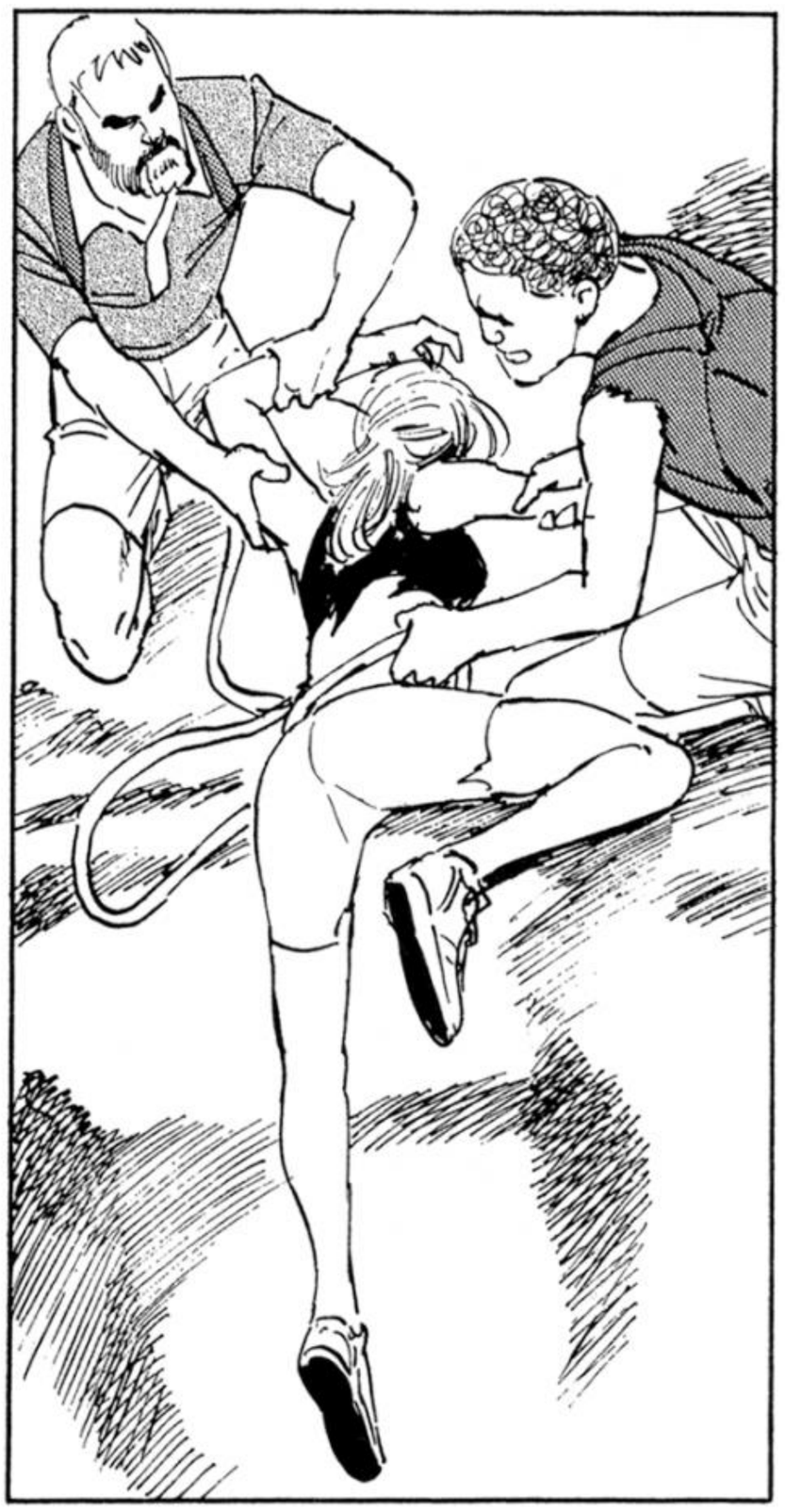
I CAN'T HOLD ON... HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, BUT...

THANK YOU, DOCTOR...

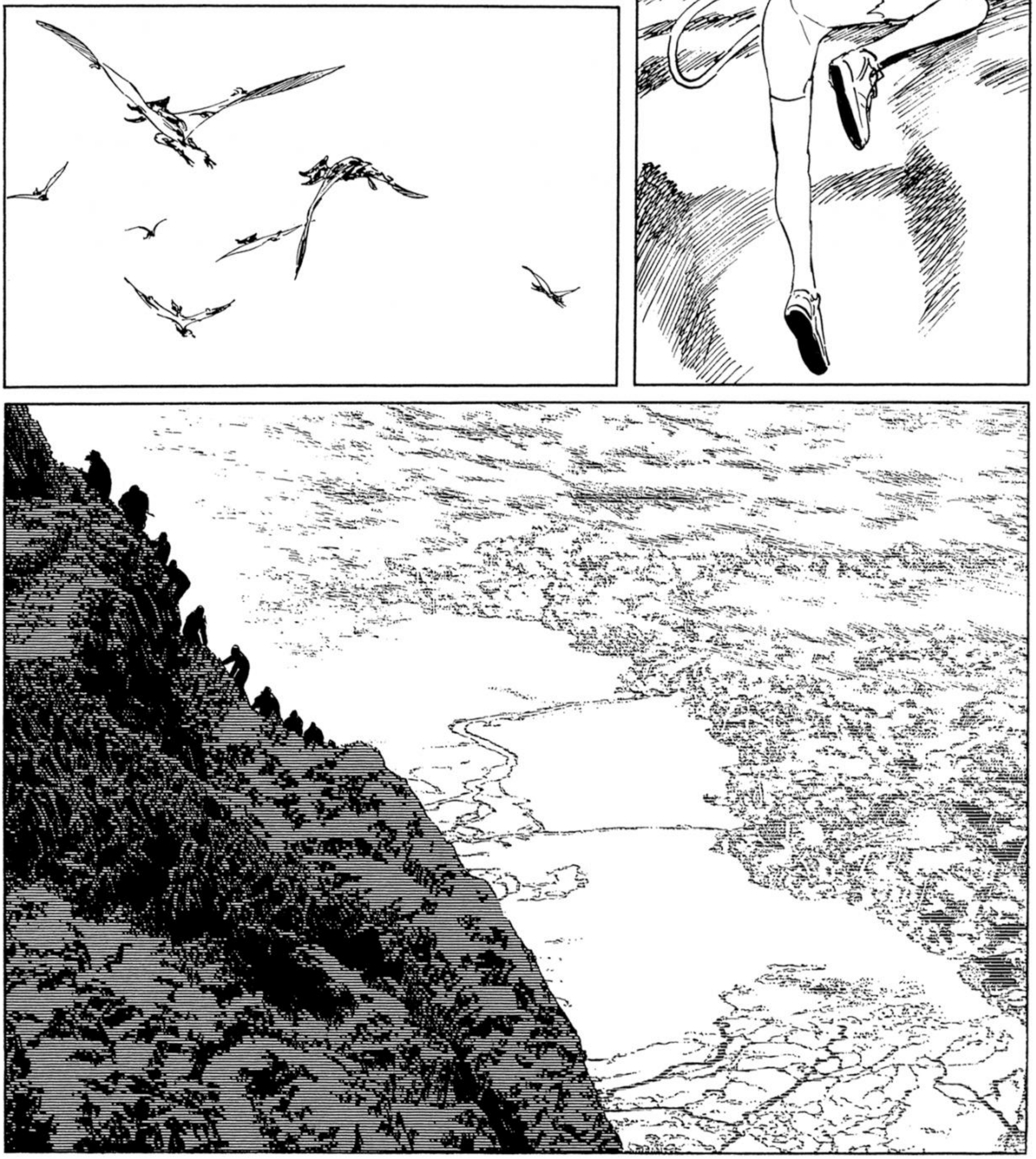
I'M NOT A DOCTOR ANYMORE...

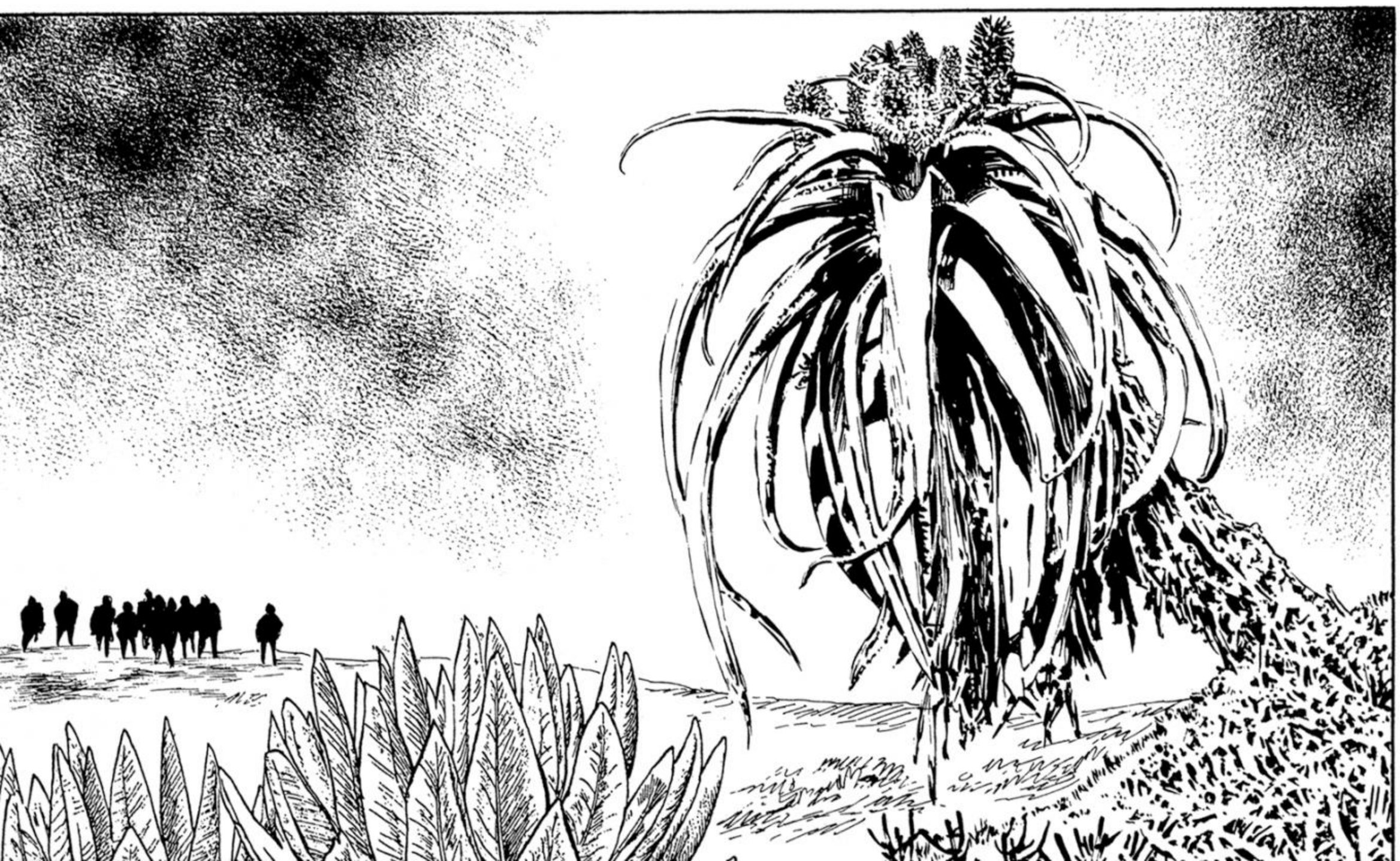
...

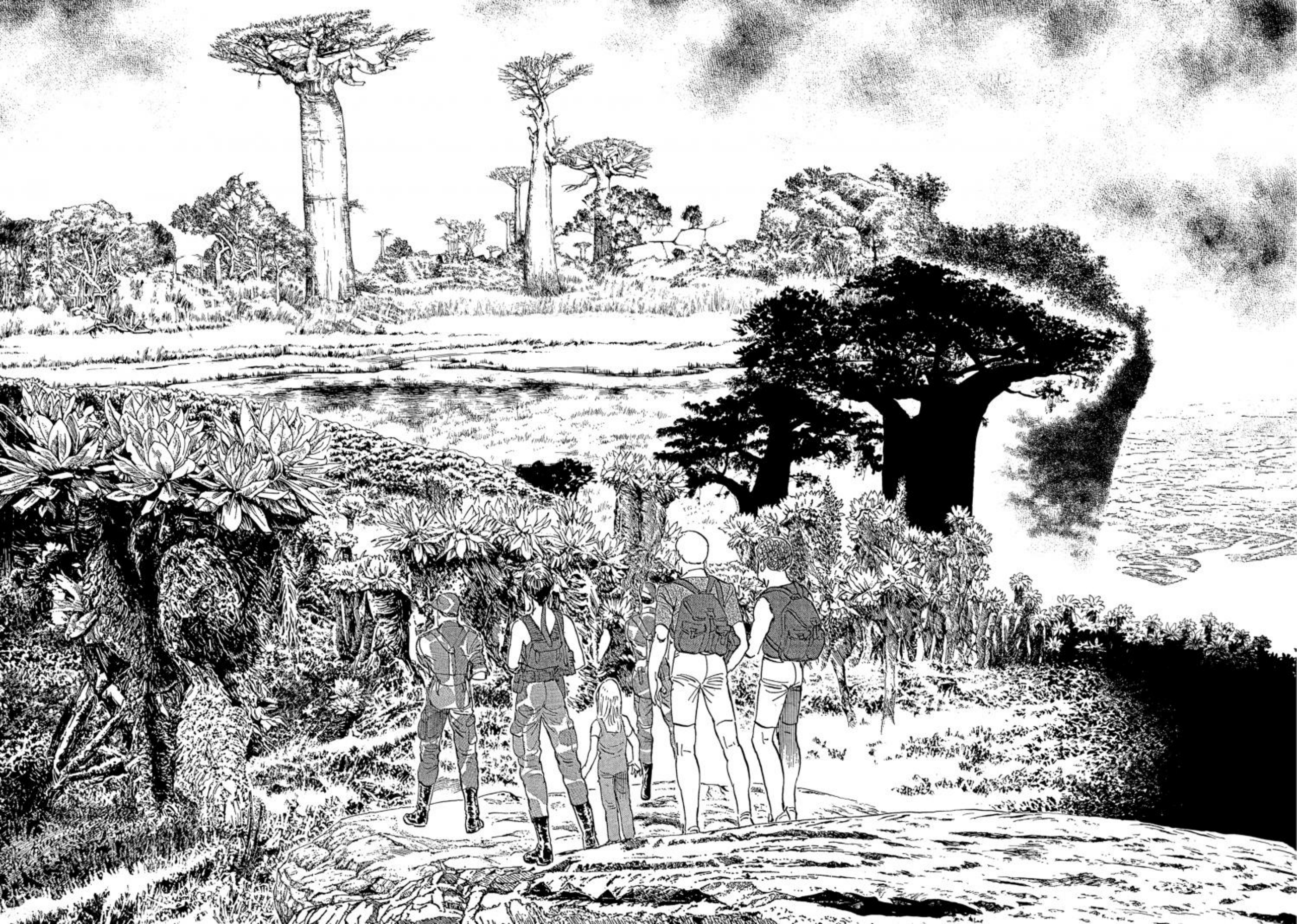
MARGIE!









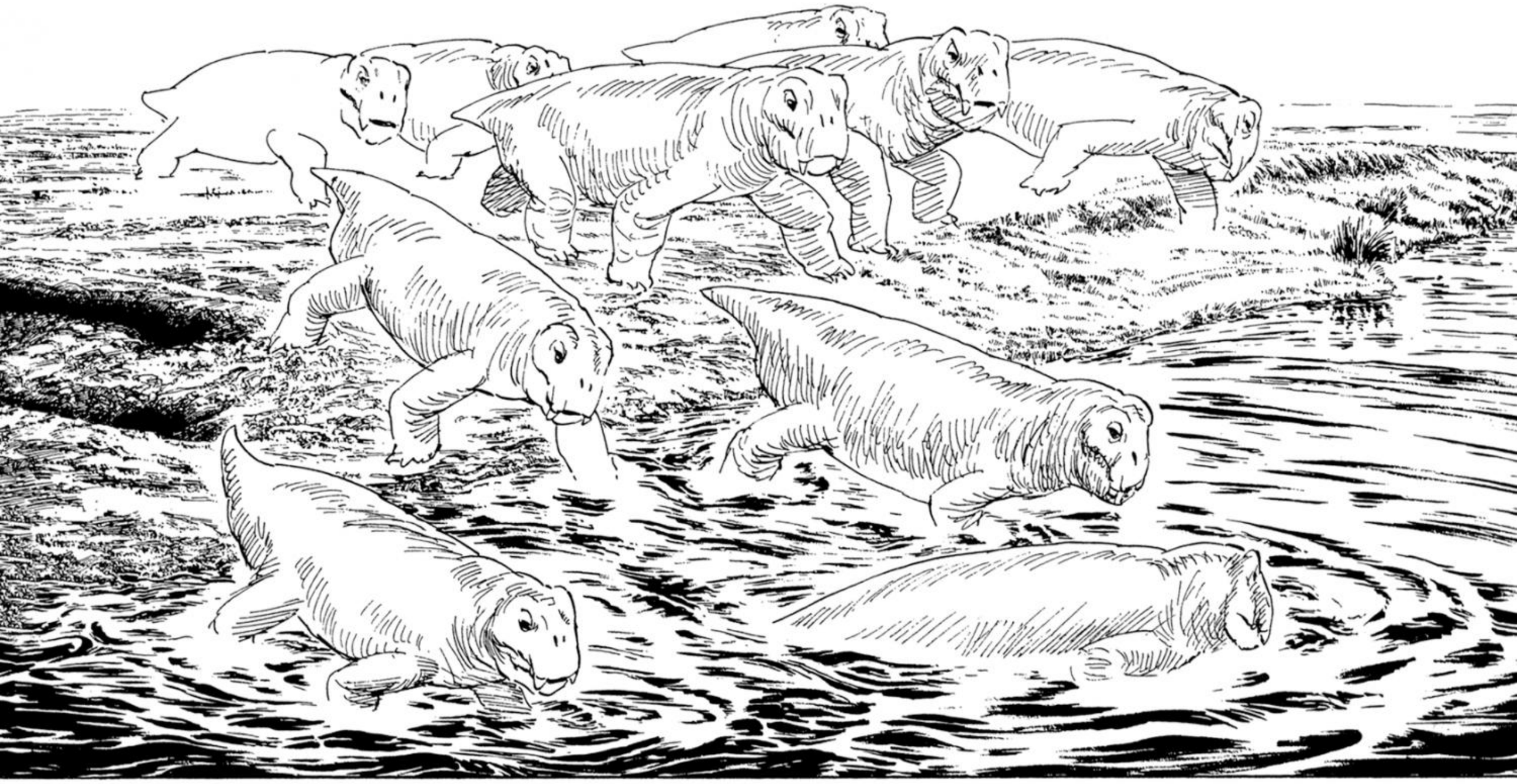


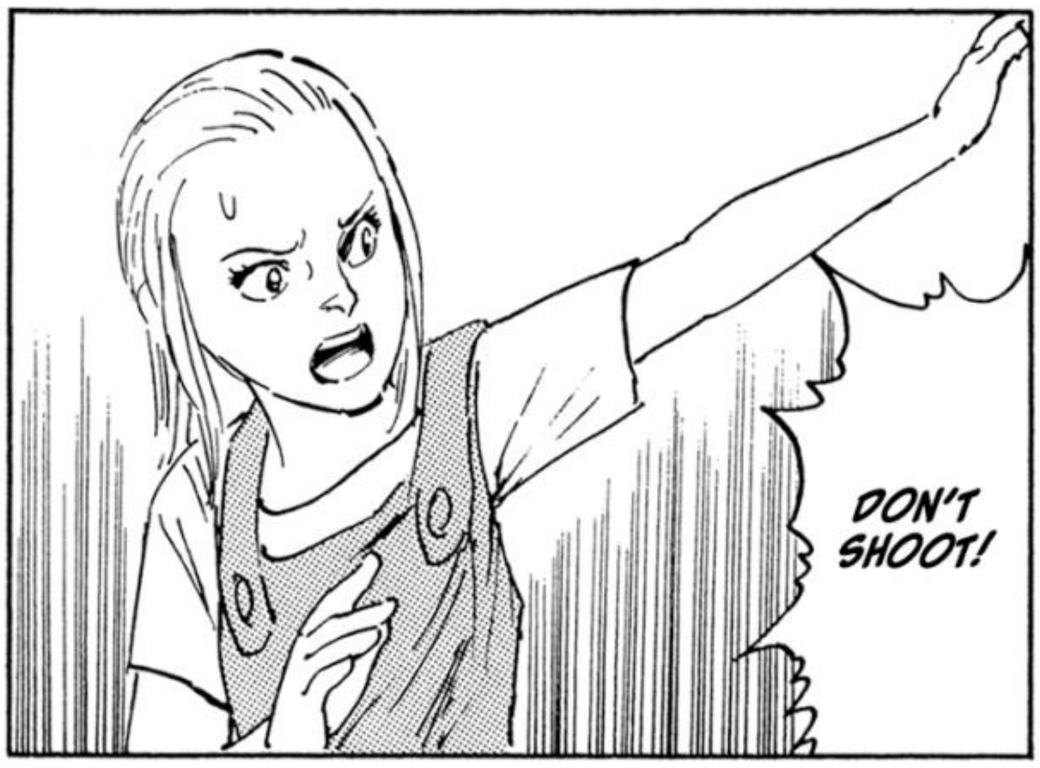
IT'S COOL... THIS FEELS LIKE HEAVEN COMPARED TO THE JUNGLE...

THESE MUST BE HIGHLAND PLANTS. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM...

DELICIOUS!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S COOL AND DELICIOUS! NOTHING LIKE THAT SMELLY SWAMP WATER!




DON'T SHOOT!

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I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH CLUMSY ANIMALS BEFORE! HAHAHA!

WELL, AREN'T THEY CAREFREE? THEY'RE NOT SCARED BY US AT ALL.

HEH... HEHE...

MAMMALS!?

THESE COULD BE THE SURVIVORS OF THE MOST PRIMITIVE MAMMALS!

But the dinosaurs weren't born right away after that. There was another type of animal that tried to evolve from reptiles first.

In the Paleozoic era... The animals that came up to the land evolved into amphibians, then reptiles.

*The young spend some time growing in their mother's womb before being born.

"Theromorpha"... These creatures, which could be called mammalian reptiles, were clearly the forerunners of mammals, as primitive as they were.

They lost their scales, became warm-blooded, and were probably viviparous*.

If that era had lasted, there would be no place for the dinosaurs. The age of mammals would have begun a hundred million years earlier. And naturally, species like humans would have evolved that much sooner.

In the late Paleozoic era, it was theromorphs that ruled the Earth.

There were probably stragglers that survived into the Triassic period, but they would soon be overwhelmed by a new, more powerful species...

But at the end of the Paleozoic era, the Earth was swept by a storm of mass extinction, whether by a meteor collision or by a supervolcano eruption. This hit the theromorphs hard, and they lost most of their numbers.

Dinosaurs

Reptiles

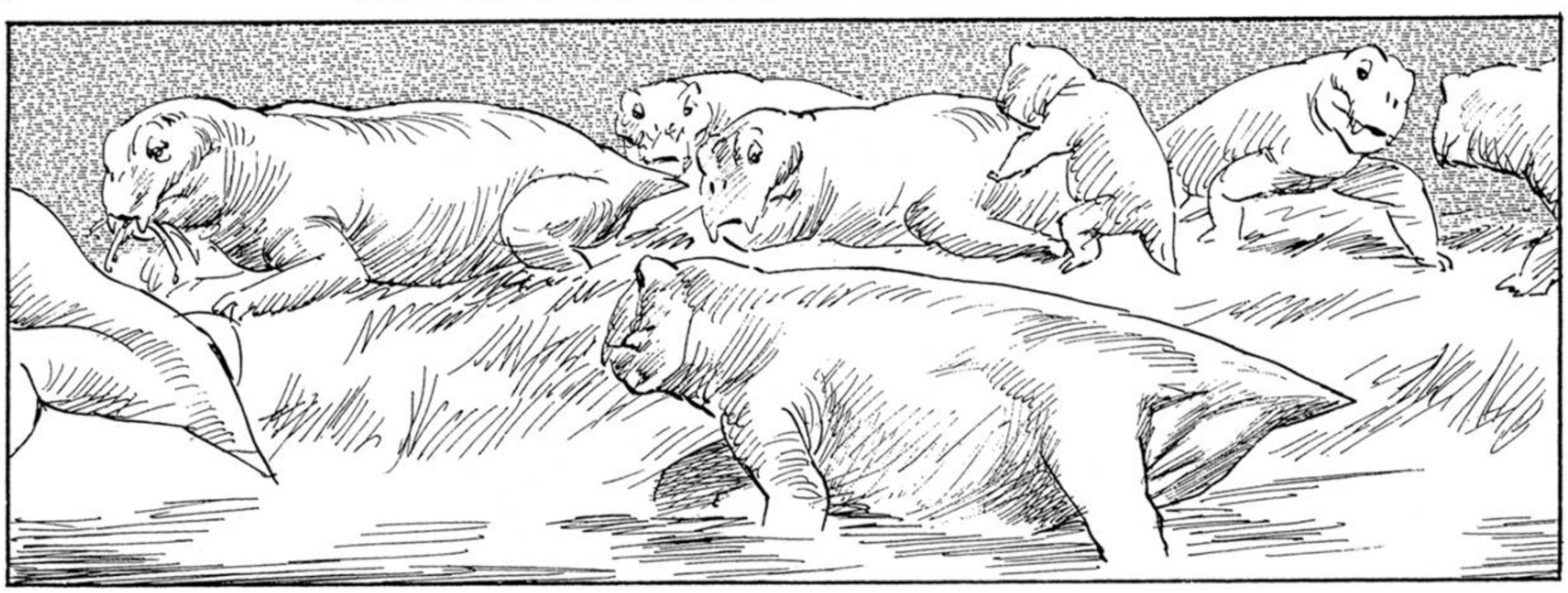
Mammals

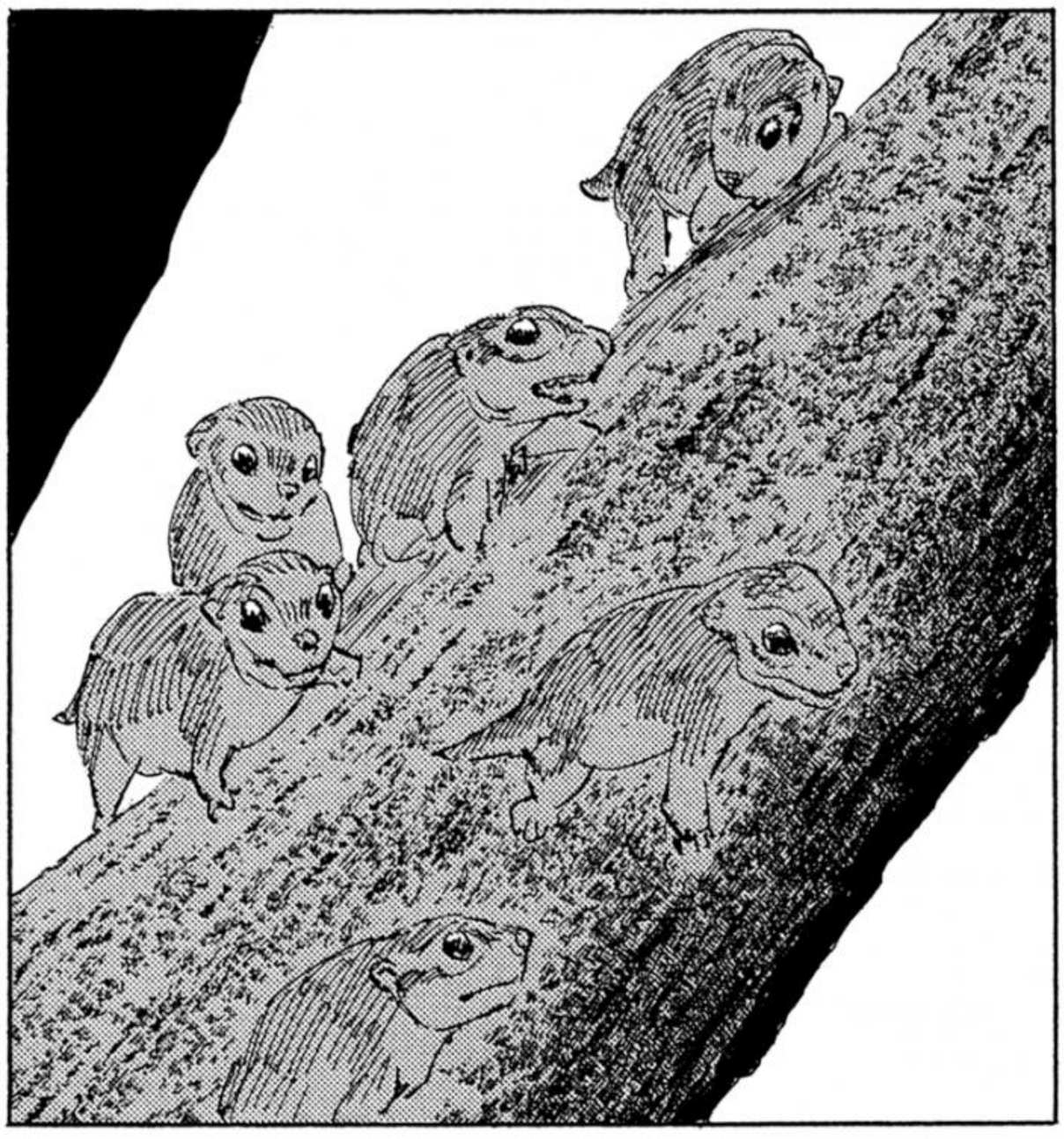
Theromorphs

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cretaceous Period | Jurassic Period | | Triassic Period | |
| | Mesozoic Era | | | | Paleozoic Era |

Mammals and dinosaurs both had a long history of their rise and fall.

There were proper mammals that were born from the theromorphs, but they had to live under the foot of the dinosaurs for a hundred million years.





MAMMALS ARE OUR FRIENDS. THAT'S WHAT I'M REALLY FEELING...

IT FEELS ALMOST PEACEFUL HERE...

THIS IS A LOST WORLD OF MAMMALS...

THE GUIANA HIGHLANDS IN SOUTH AMERICA HAVE BIZARRE CREATURES THAT LOOK LIKE EVOLUTION LEFT THEM BEHIND.

THOSE DOG-LIKE ANIMALS SEEM TO BE THE ONLY CARNIVORES. I DON'T THINK THE PTEROSAURS WILL COME UP HERE, PROBABLY THANKS TO THE WIND CURRENTS.

GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE! I'VE CONVINCED LIEUTENANT GROCK TO LET US TAKE A FULL DAY'S REST HERE!

YA-HOOO OOO!

JEAN...?

...PAT? WHERE'D YOU GO!?

SHE'S OVER THERE, WITH THE OTHERS.

YOU'RE EXHAUST-ED, JEAN.

YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF TOO FAR, IN A LOT OF WAYS...

...

THIS IS A FRUIT THE ANIMALS WERE EATING. IT TASTES LIKE SHIT, BUT YOU SHOULD EAT IT AND GET SOME MORE SLEEP.

ANN...

I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS...

...

YES! SEE? IT'S ADAM!

Squeee!

ADAM...?

HEHE... PAT'S FORMED HER OWN UNIQUE HYPOTHESIS ABOUT THE ANIMALS ON THIS HIGHLAND.

?

SHE THINKS THAT THEY'RE THE ANCESTORS OF HUMANS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF THESE MAMMALS LAST UNTIL THEN...

THE CRETACEOUS MASS EXTINCTION EVENT WILL HAPPEN IN 80 MILLION YEARS AND KILL OFF ALL THE DINOSAURS, RIGHT?

THIS PLACE IS SO ISOLATED, I THINK THEY COULD'VE SURVIVED, EVEN IF THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS DESTROYED IN A DISASTER.

U... YOU THINK THEY'LL COME BACK DOWN TO THE DEAD WORLD AND BECOME THE ANCESTORS OF LATER MAMMALS...?

ISN'T IT FUN TO IMAGINE THAT THE PROSIMIANS, OUR DISTANT ANCESTORS, SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD FROM THESE VERY HIGHLANDS?

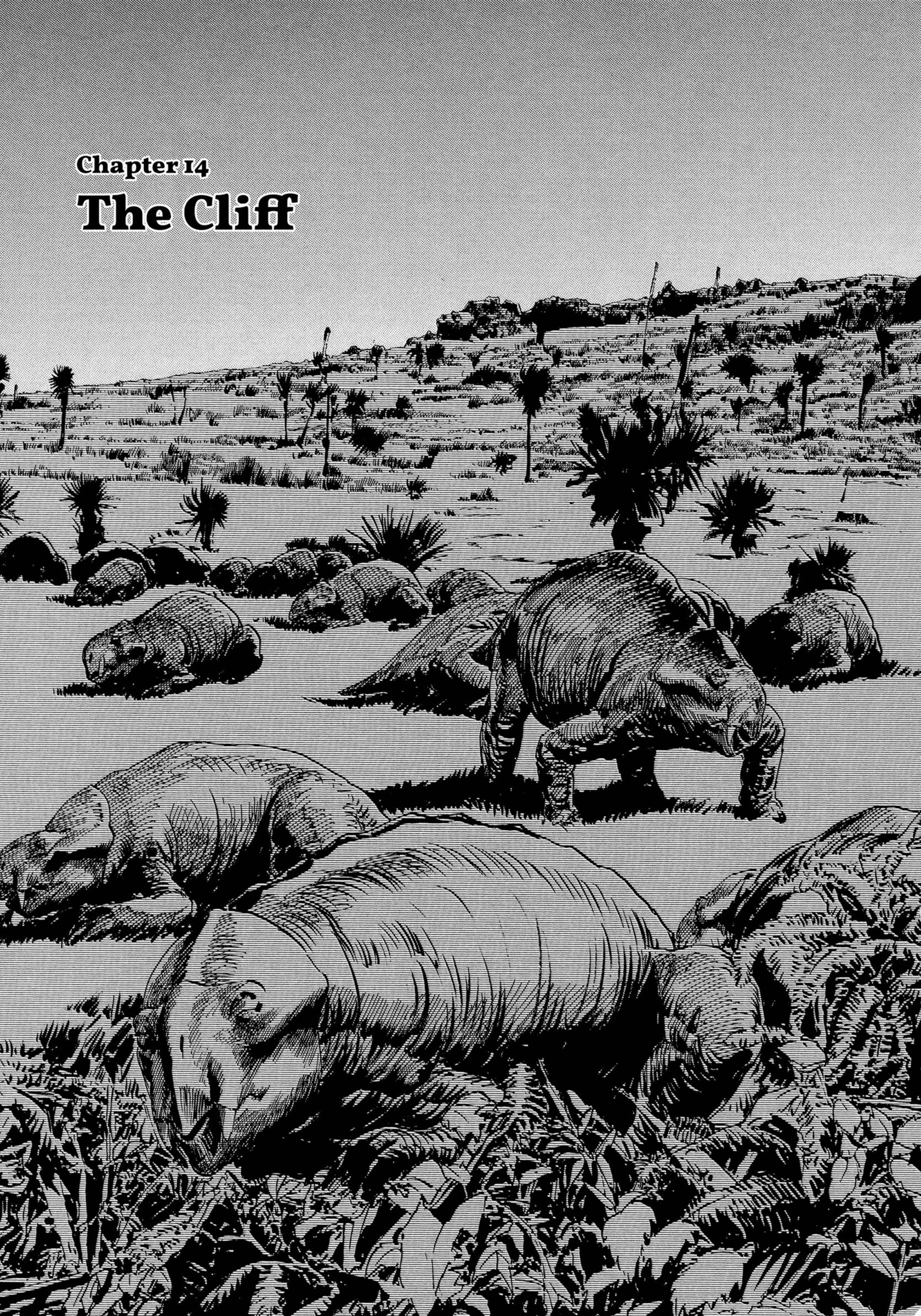
HAHA... IT MAY SEEM ABSURD, BUT WE ARE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND AFRICA IS HE BIRTHPLACE OF THE HUMAN RACE.

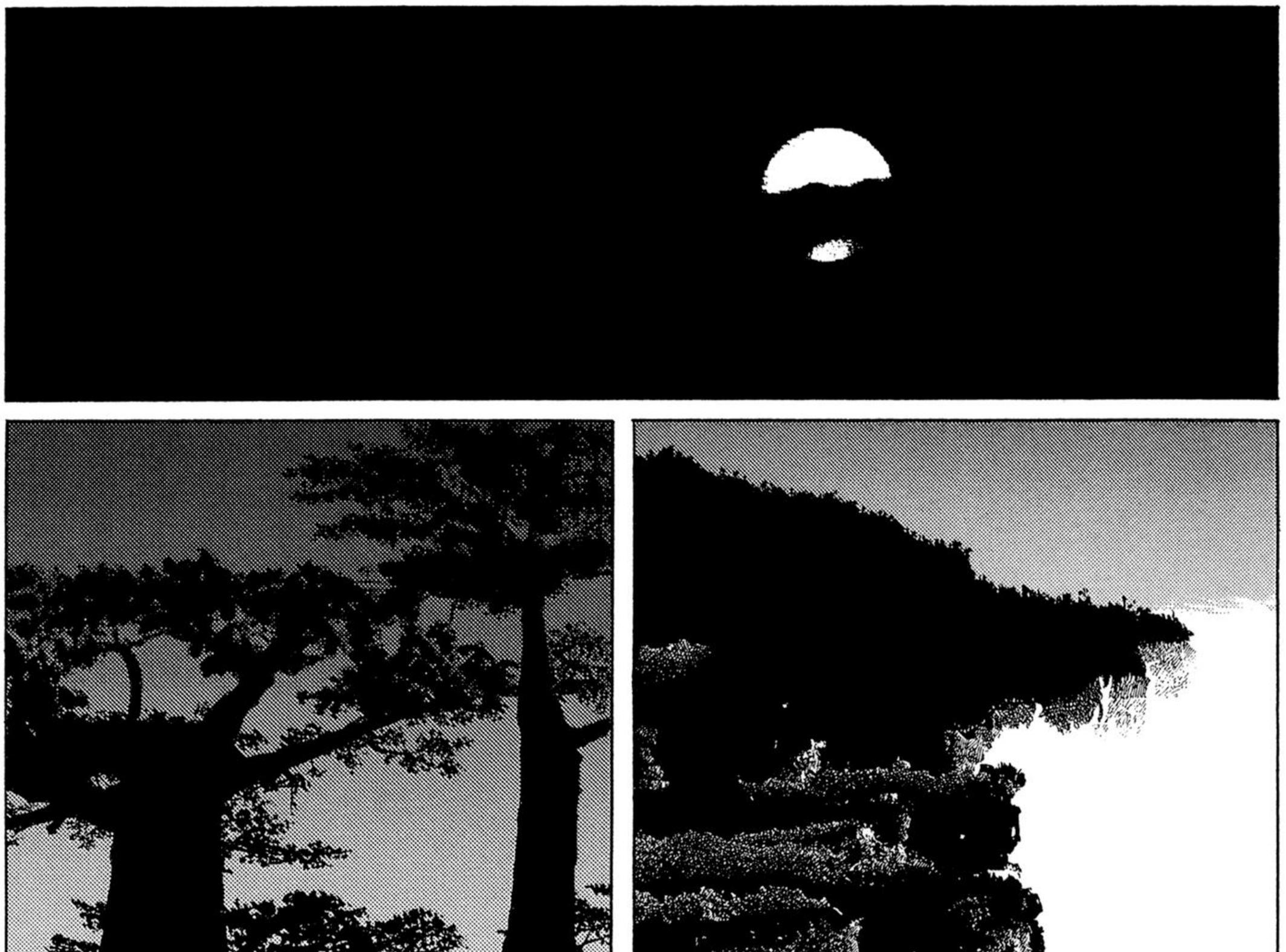
NOW, GO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS, ADAM!

Squeee!
Squeee!

## Chapter 14

# The Cliff





Zzzz...

Zzzz...

OKAY, THE COAST IS CLEAR...

IT'S SO COLD! THIS FEELS AMAZING!

I FORGET! WOW, I'M ALL COVERED IN DIRT!

HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE HAD A SHOWER?

THE SOLDIERS' SURVIVAL KITS HAVE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WE NEED. PAT, STOP SWIMMING! COME OVER HERE AND LET ME WASH YOU OFF!

THANK GOODNESS WE'VE GOT SOAP!

I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN... I THINK THOSE PRIMITIVE MAMMALS RECHARGED MY BATTERIES...

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, ANN? IT FEELS GREAT!

THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN IF THE MEN TURN INTO ANIMALS IF THEY SEE US, THEY'LL LOOK ALMOST CUTE NEXT TO THE DINOSAURS.

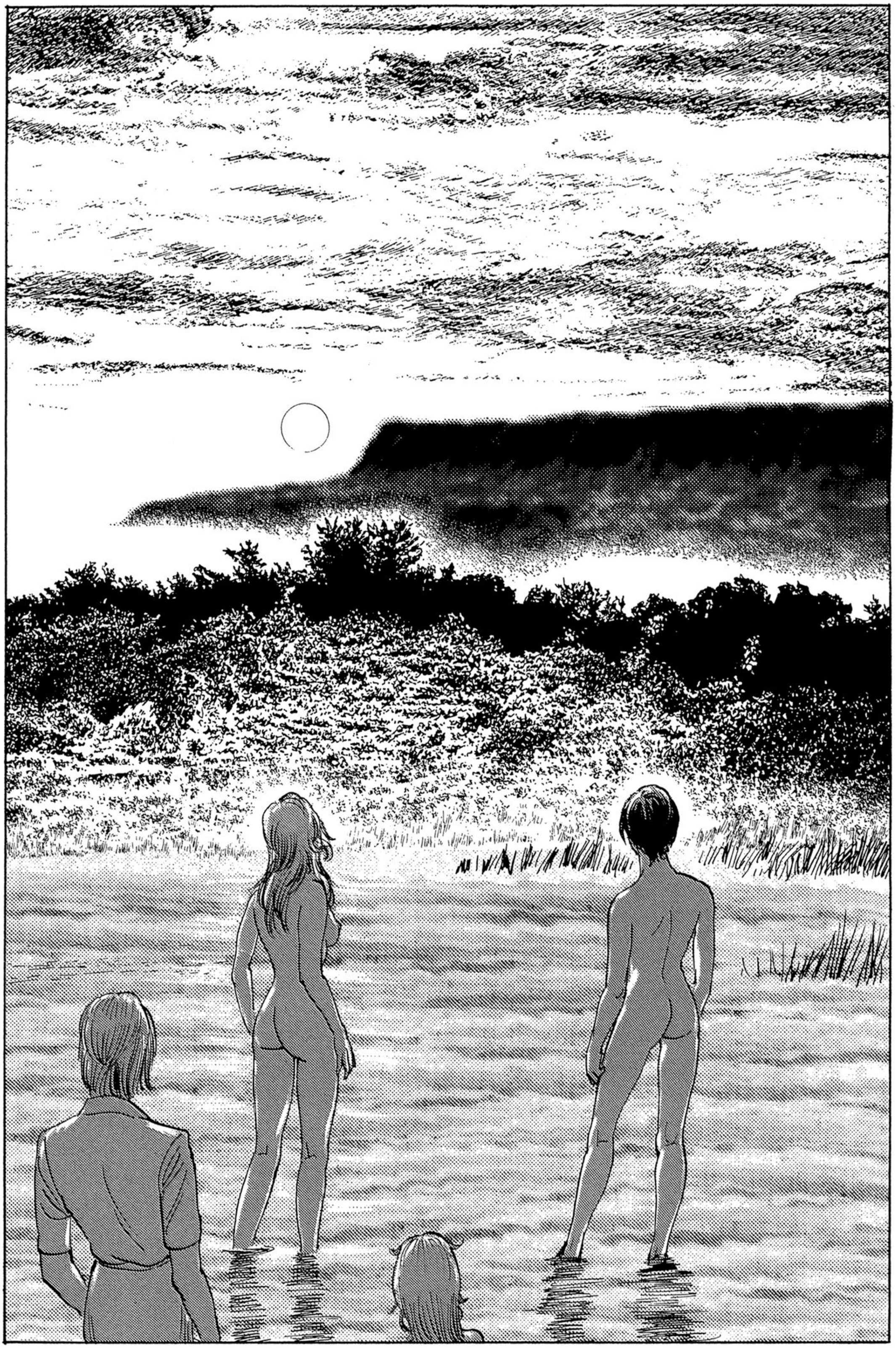
WHO CARES IF THEY SEE US?

BUT IF I DON'T KEEP WATCH, THE MEN...

AHAHAHA...

HEHE HEHE...

THE SUN'S COMING UP!



Seeing them surviving in the world of the dinosaurs may not be reassuring, but it's at least adorable.

There is a chance that the theromorphs, the primitive mammals on these highlands, would later become our ancestors, just as Pat said...

Live on, mammals, for the future...

AN ANIMAL?

BYE-BYE, ADAM! DON'T BECOME AN ANIMAL!

WE'LL CROSS IT AND MAKE OUR DESCENT WITHIN THE DAY!

OUR RECON PARTY'S CONFIRMED THAT THESE HIGHLANDS STRETCH ON FOR 30 CLICKS TO THE NORTH.

14 x 11

HEY, JEAN...

ALRIGHT. WE CAN MAKE SOME GROUND TO THE NORTH IN RELATIVE SAFETY. THEN LET'S HEAD BACK WEST.

...ME, TOO.

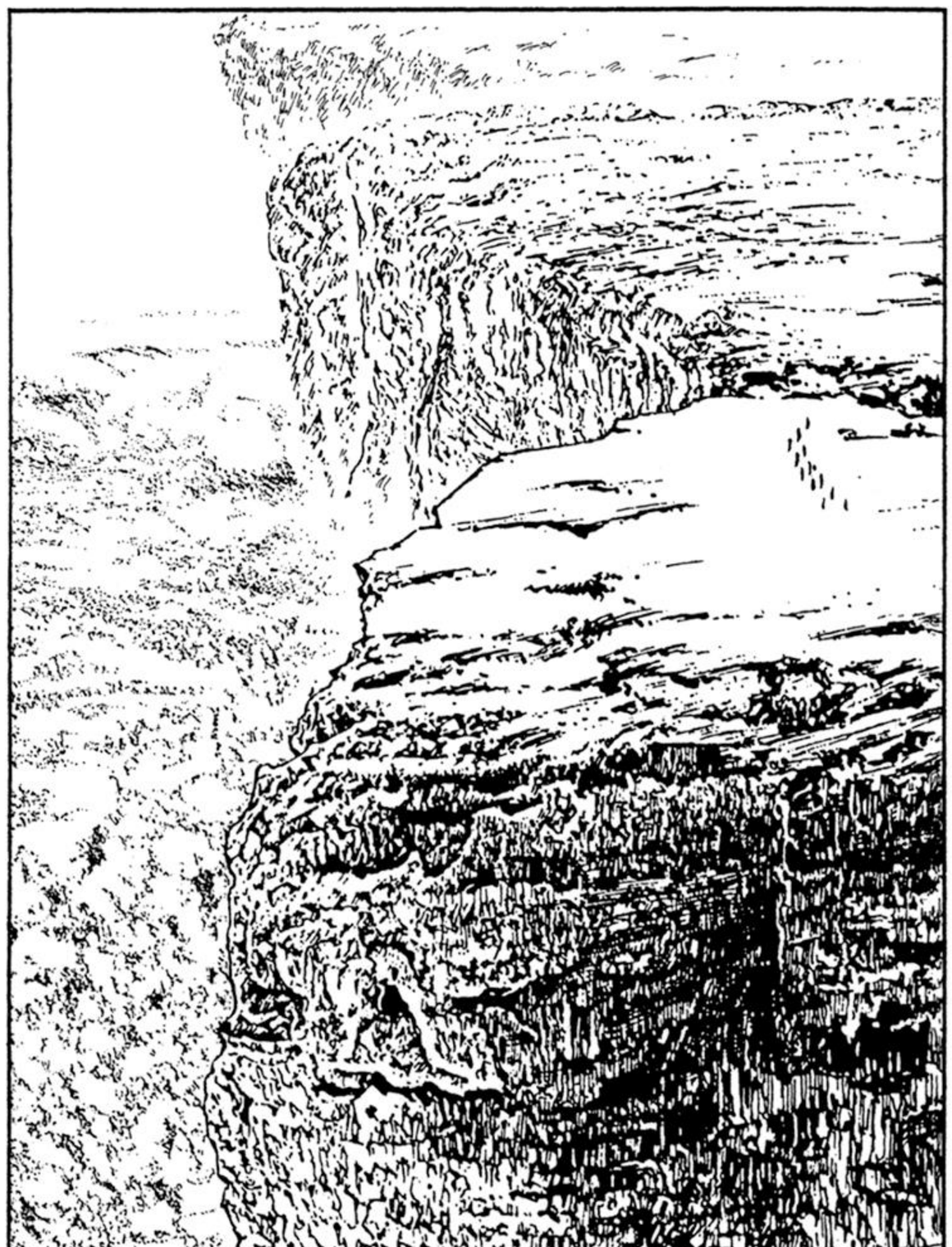
I'D LIKE TO COME BACK HERE AND LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY LIFE...

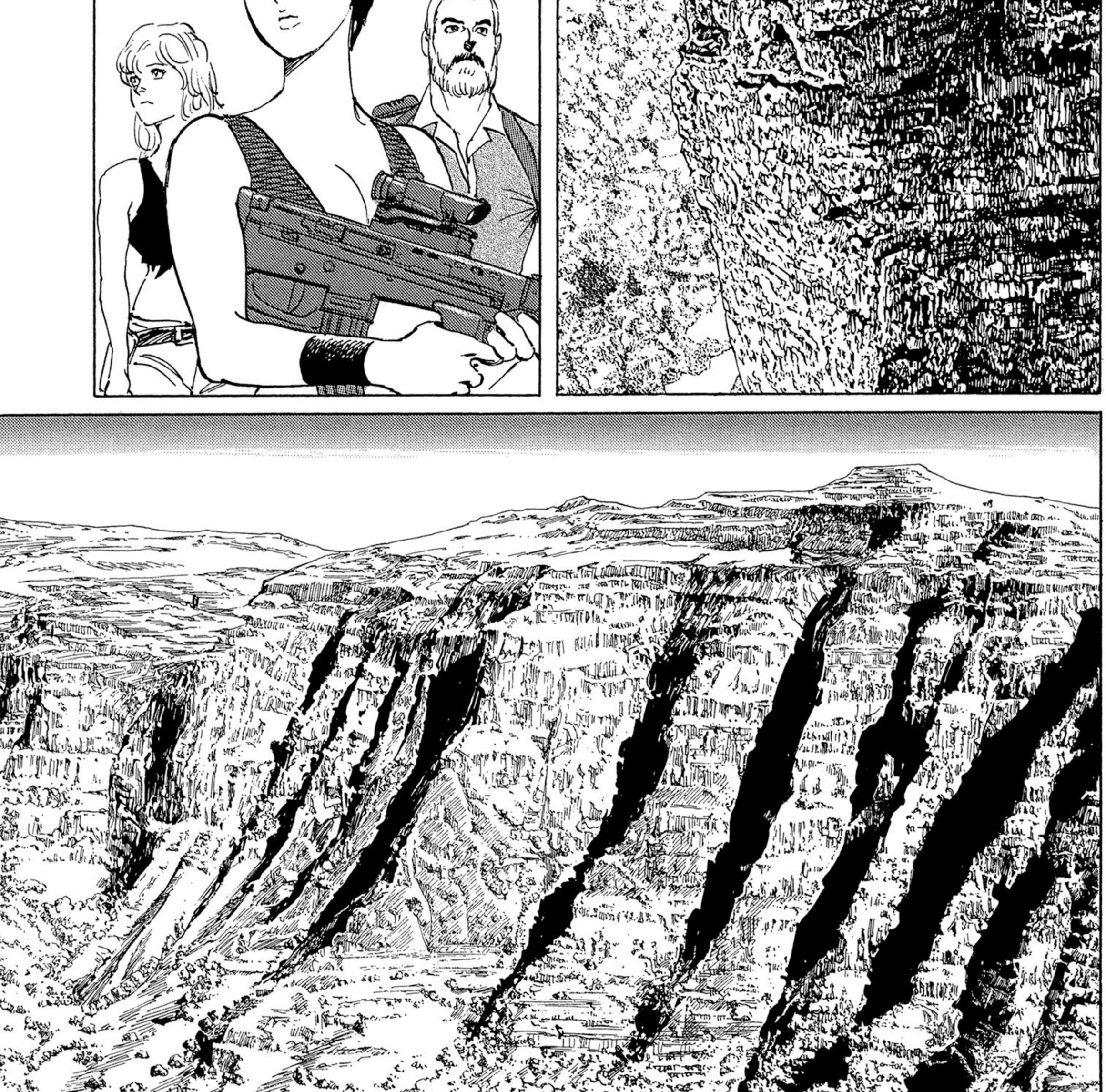
IF... JUST IF... WE NEVER MAKE IT BACK TO THE MODERN WORLD...

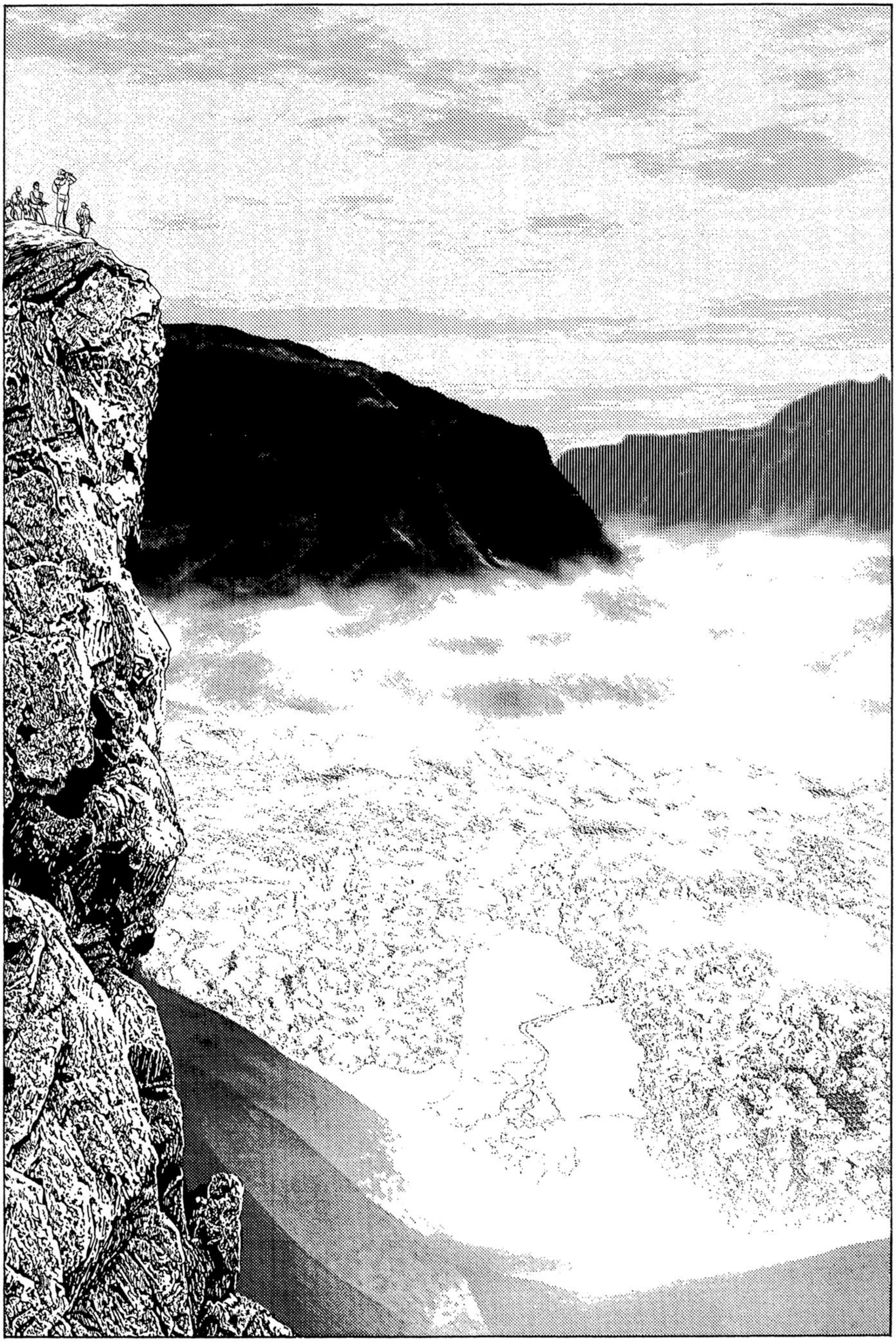
BUT LET'S THINK ABOUT MAKING IT BACK HOME ALIVE UNTIL IT'S OVER...!

Fare thee well, homeland...

Goodbye, mammalian paradise...







ALMOST THERE! WE'RE COMING UP ON THE EDGE OF THE HIGHLANDS!

...

IT'S PRACTICALLY A STRAIGHT DROP. THE ROCKS LOOK WET AND SLIPPERY, TOO. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO MAKE OUR DESCENT HERE.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT THE SAME EVERYWHERE ELSE.

DON'T TELL ME WE HAVE TO GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME...

I DON'T WANT TO GET PECKED AT BY PTEROSAURS AGAIN!

BUT WE'VE GOTTA GET DOWN SOMEHOW! WE HAVE TO FIND SOMEWHERE WE CAN DESCEND SAFELY...

ROOOAR!

THERE'S A WIND BLOWING FROM BELOW!

LOOKS PRETTY DEEP. IT COULD BE A DEAD-END CAVE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS MIGHT LEAD SOMEWHERE!

I'LL GO WITH YOU.

I'LL GO DOWN.

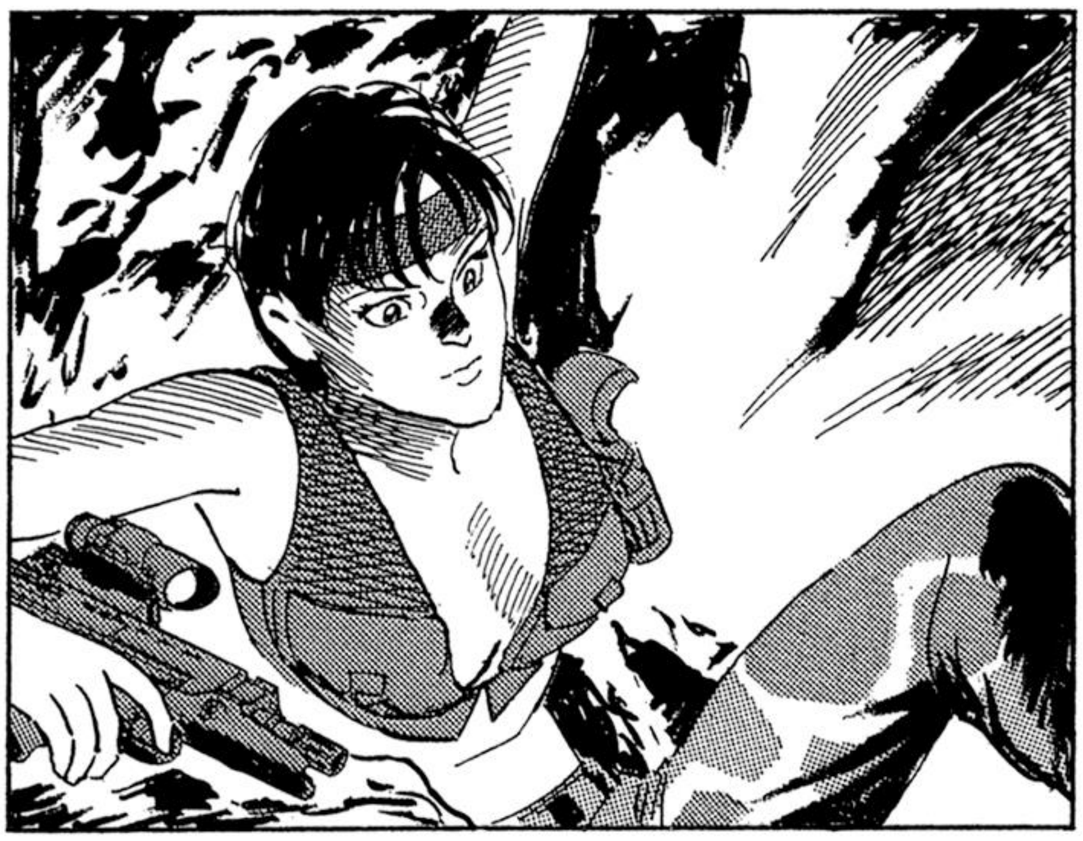
I'LL NEED ONE MORE. UHHH...

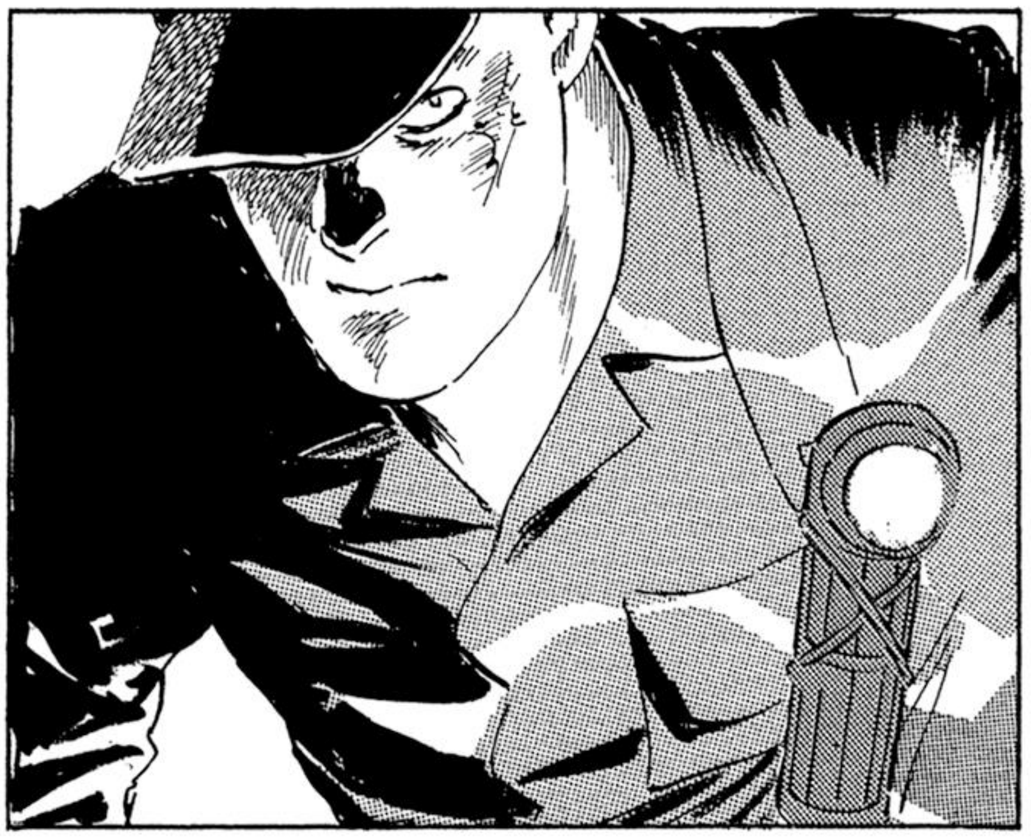
...ALRIGHT.

DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

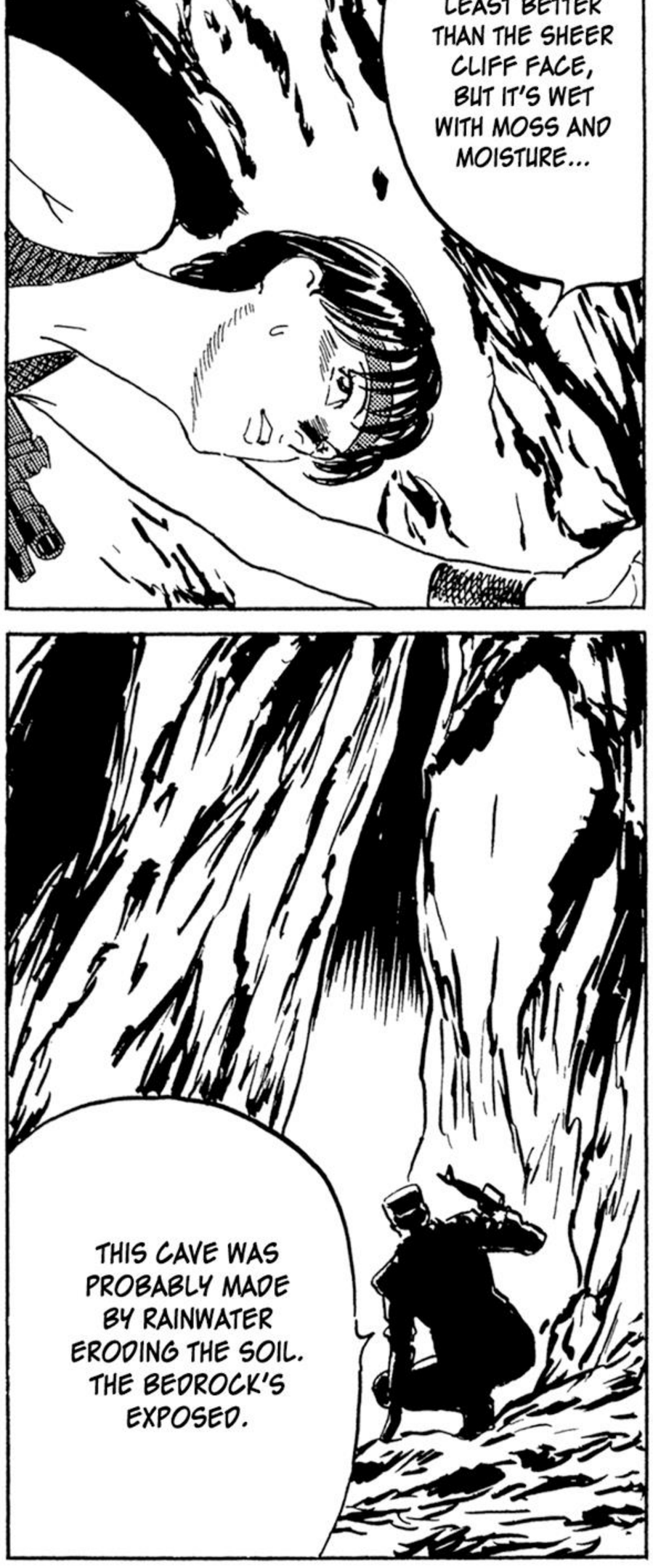
WE'LL GO LOOK ALONG THE CLIFF FOR SOMEWHERE TO MAKE A DESCENT.

JEAN...





THIS IS AT LEAST BETTER THAN THE SHEER CLIFF FACE, BUT IT'S WET WITH MOSS AND MOISTURE...


THIS CAVE WAS PROBABLY MADE BY RAINWATER ERODING THE SOIL. THE BEDROCK'S EXPOSED.

...OH, SO YOU WERE WATCHING. I GUESS THAT NOISE HAD TO HAVE WOKEN YOU UP.

OH, RIGHT. THANKS FOR THE EYE CANDY EARLIER TODAY, LIEUTENANT JEAN.

HUH?

LET ME JUST MAKE THIS CLEAR. I'M NOT PLANNING ON BECOMING AN ANIMAL IN HEAT.

THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND IS GETTING TO THE BLUE HOLE.

ME, TOO. I JUST PRAY THAT THE US IS SENDING A RESCUE PARTY, LIKE THEY PROMISED.

HEHEH... I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE...

IT'LL BE FINE, WON'T IT? IF ALL GOES WELL, THE US WILL OPEN UP ITS OWN ROUTE TO THE JURASSIC WORLD...

AND THE PROBABILITY THAT WE'LL MAKE IT BACK ALIVE IS UNDER ONE PERCENT...!

THE WAY I SEE IT, THERE'S ONLY ABOUT A 20 PERCENT PROBABILITY THAT THE US WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THE BLUE HOLE AND SEND A RESCUE PARTY.

MY CHANCES OF SURVIVAL WILL SKYROCKET IF I'M ALONE!

OUR CHANCES ARE AS GOOD AS NON-EXISTENT. BUT...

HEHE...

SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SAVE YOUR OWN ASS!?

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE ALL GET EATEN BY DINOSAURS?

THEN THIS WOULD ALL BE MEANINGLESS. WE'LL BE NOTHING BUT DINOSAUR SHIT!

YOU COULD SAY THAT SURVIVAL IS MY TOP PRIORITY!

DON'T FORGET, LIEUTENANT HART. YOU'RE IN THE BRITISH NAVY, AND I'M A US MARINE.

WHICHEVER ONE OF US SURVIVES IS THE ONE WHO ACCOMPLISHES OUR MISSION!

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA MAKE IT BACK ALIVE TO REPORT THIS FOR POSTERITY... AM I WRONG?

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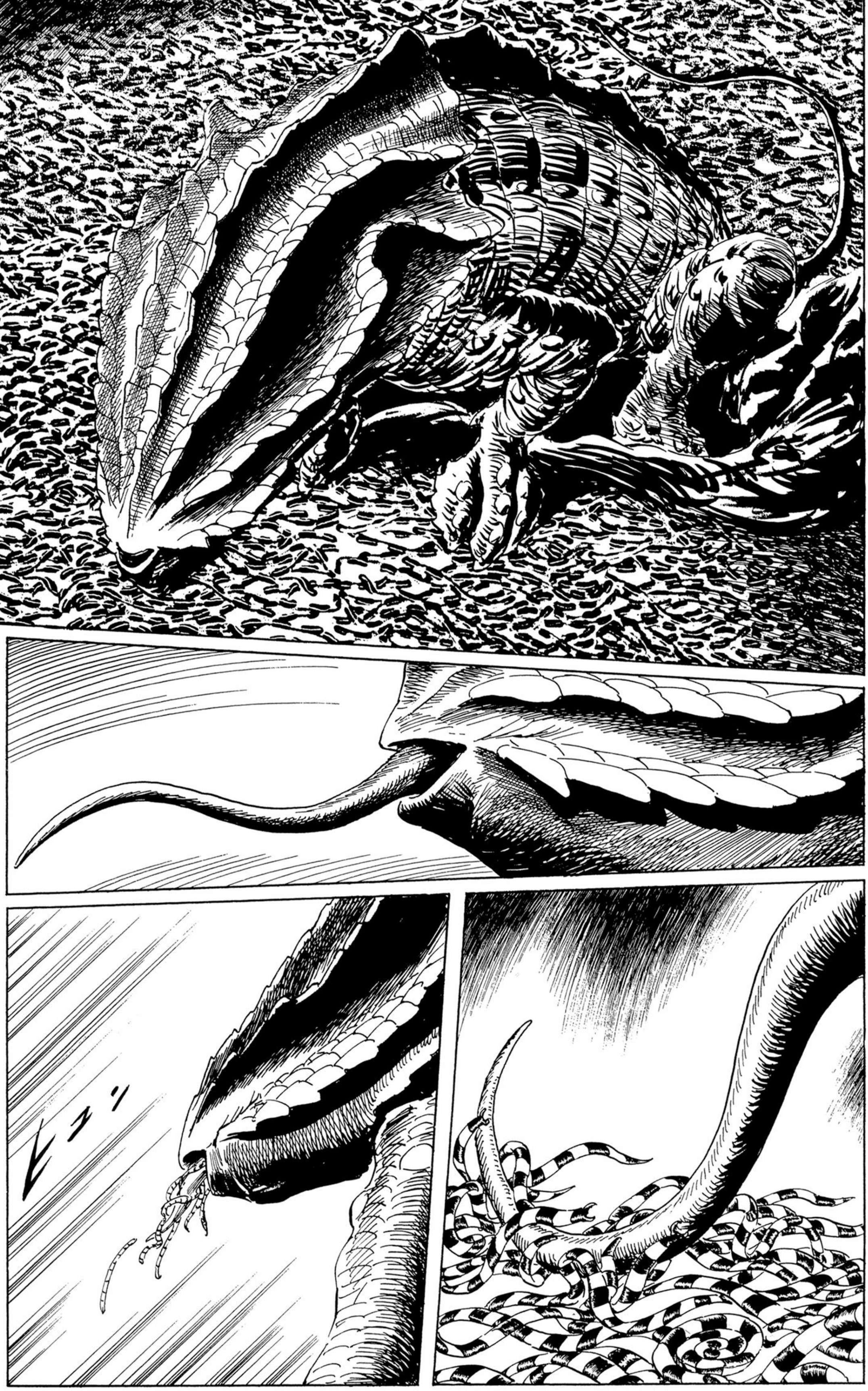
THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE PIRANHAS!

GRUBS...!

T... THERE MUST BE SOIL HERE! THEY MAY HAVE A NEST SOMEWHERE NEARBY!

WE COULD DOUSE THEM IN FUEL AND LIGHT THEM ON FIRE, THEN TAKE THAT CHANCE TO PASS THROUGH...

IN THIS CAVE? THERE'LL BE SO MUCH SMOKE AND FLAMES, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS!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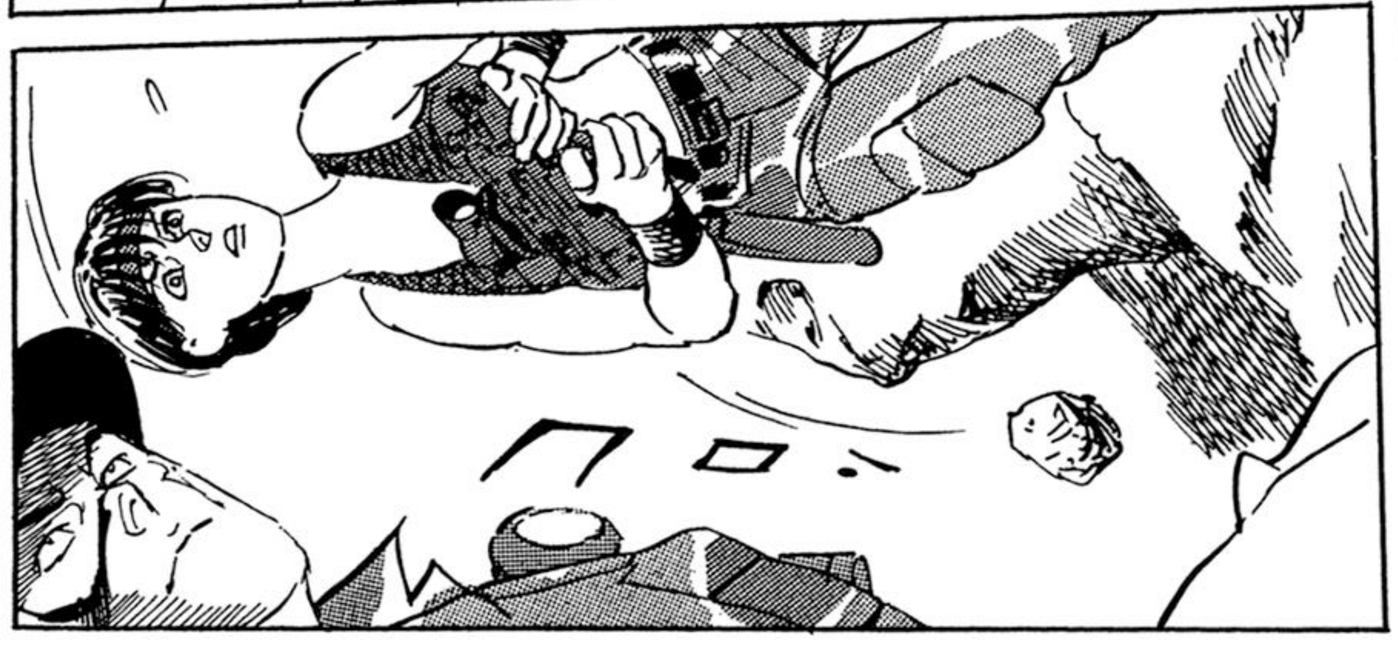
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I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY DINOSAURS THAT LIVED UNDERGROUND. THERE AREN'T ANY FOSSILS OF THIS...

IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE TO SEE SUBTERRANEAN DINOSAURS IN THIS ERA...

THERE ARE MAMMALS LIKE MOLES AND NAKED MOLE RATS THAT HAVE ADAPTED TO LIVING UNDERGROUND.

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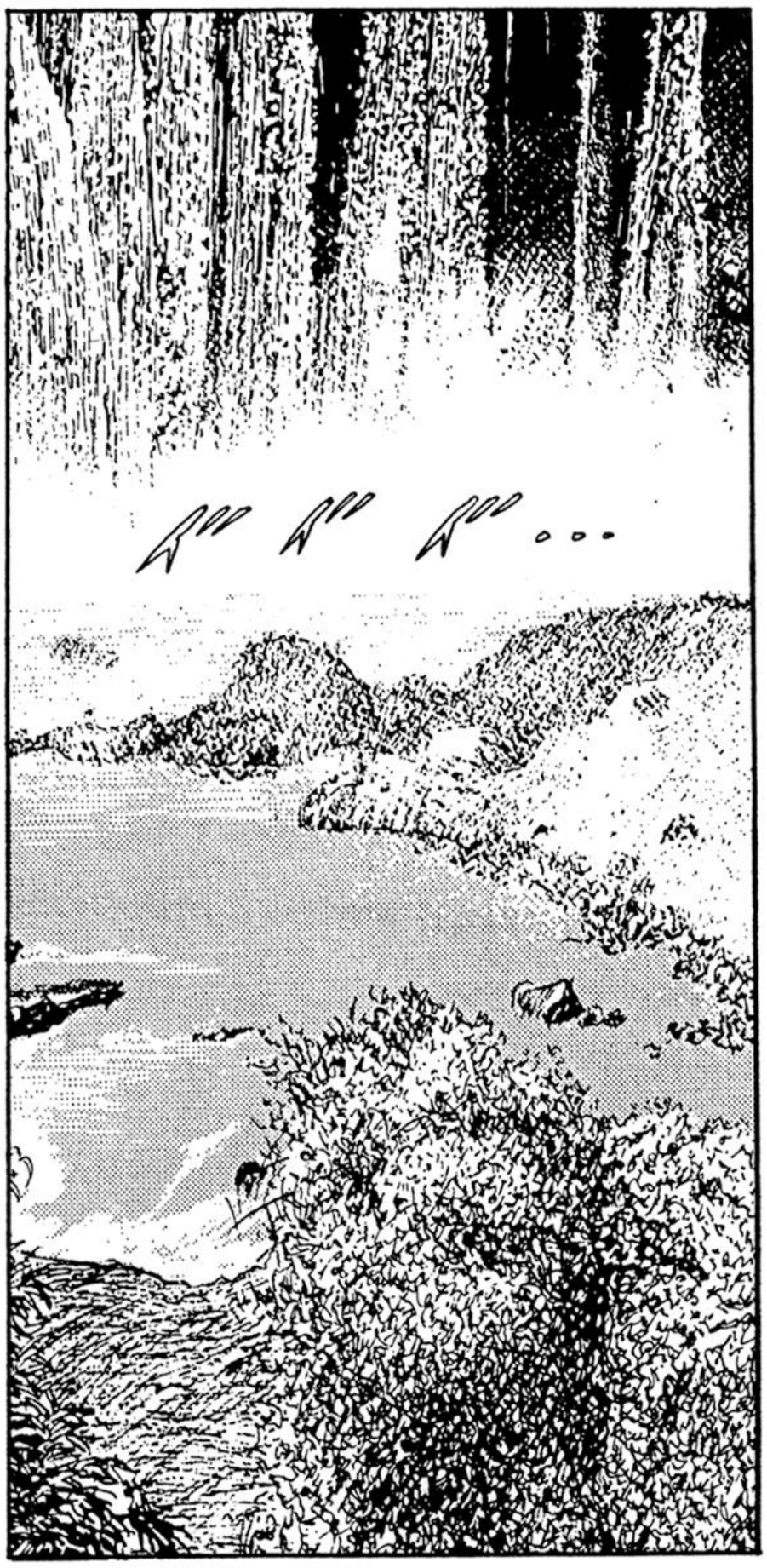
HURRY... NOW'S OUR CHANCE!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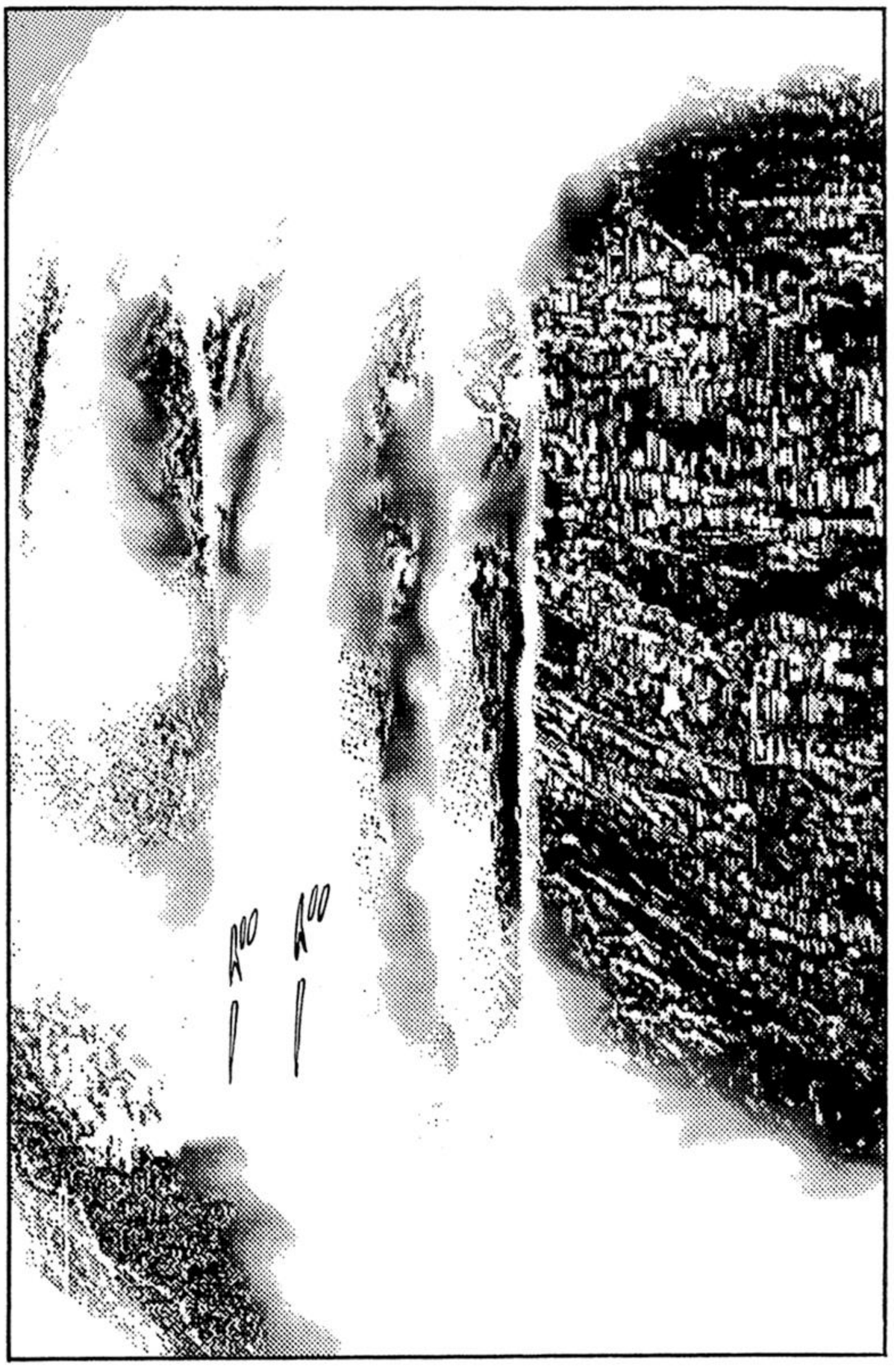
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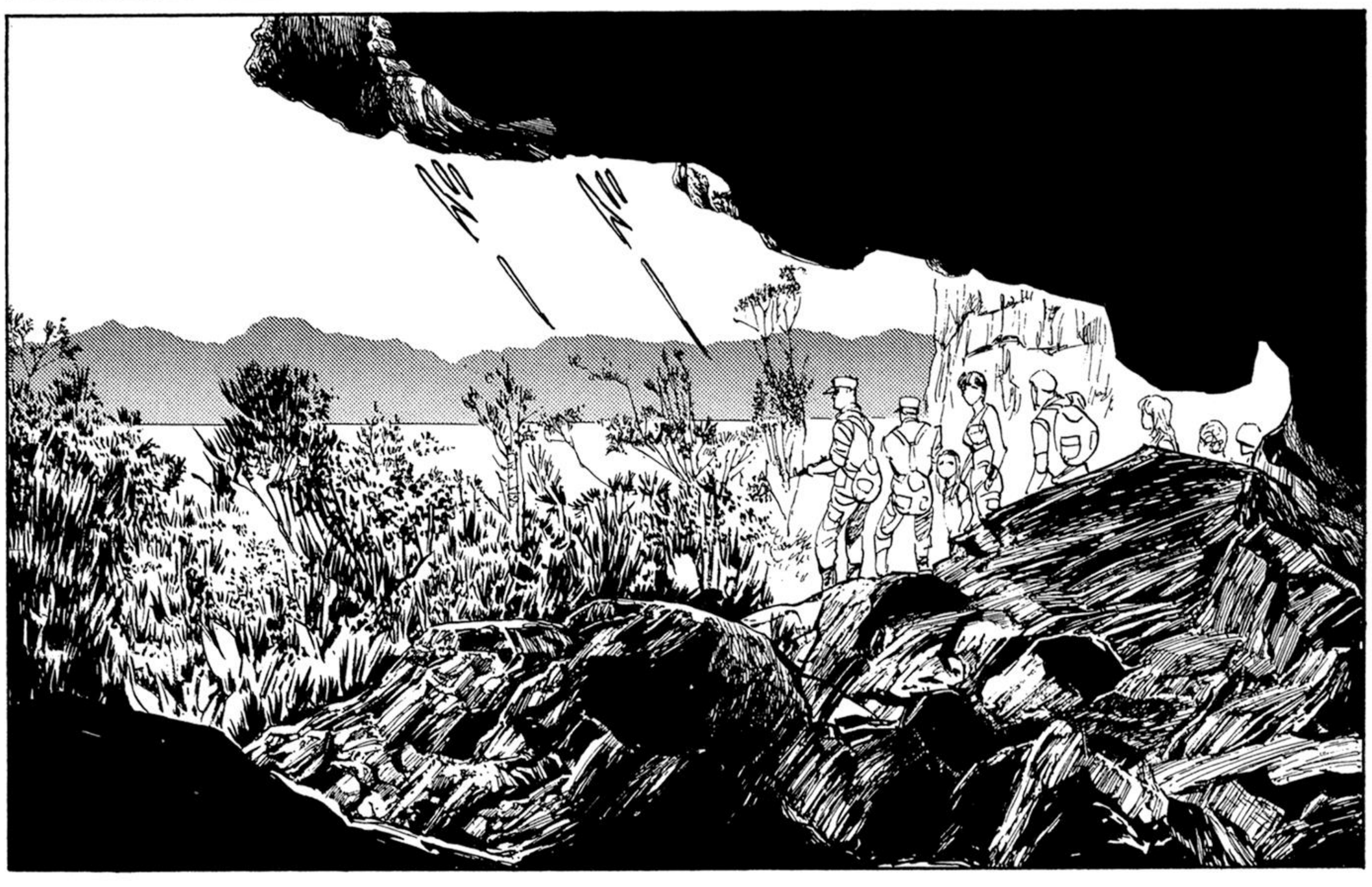
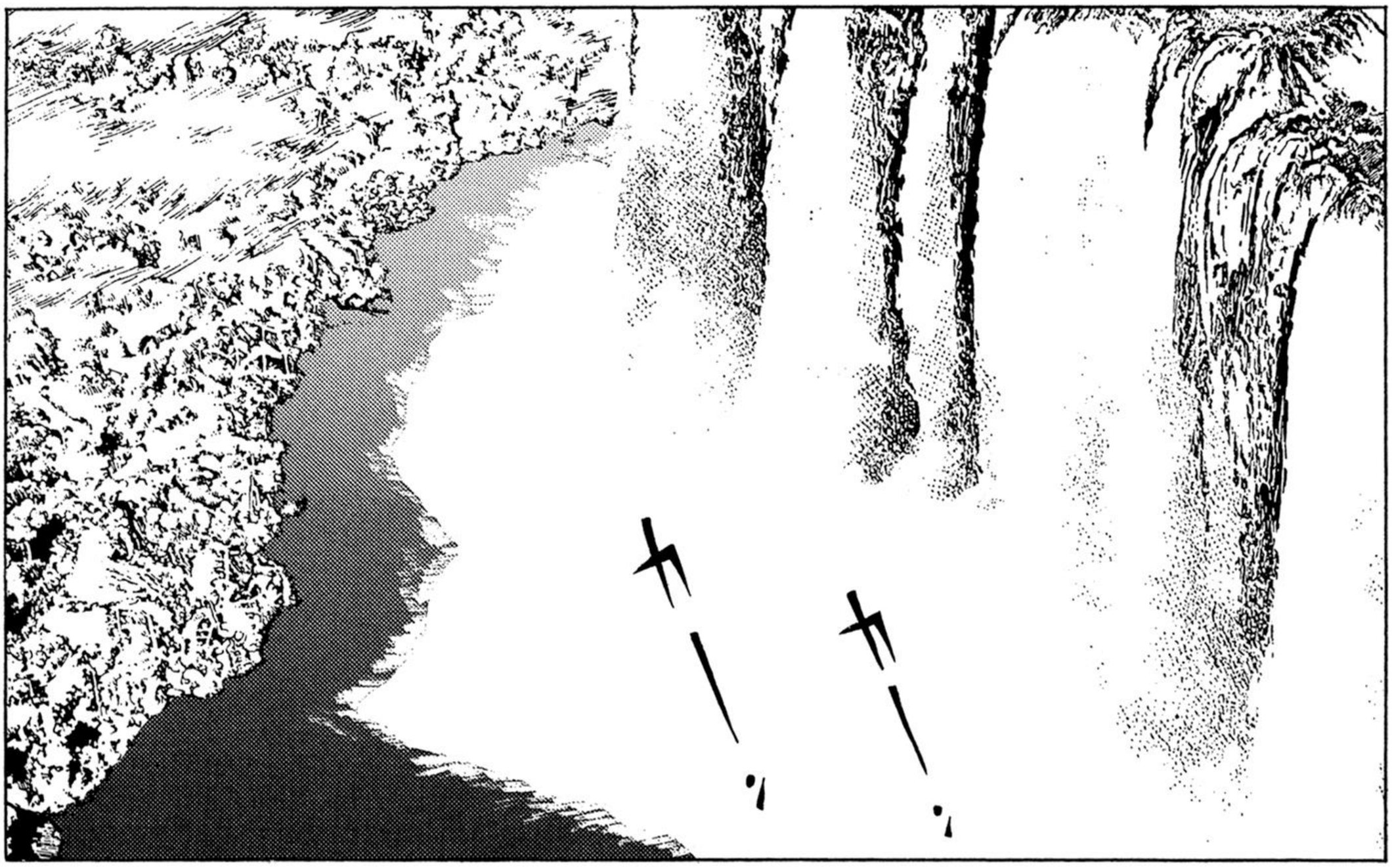
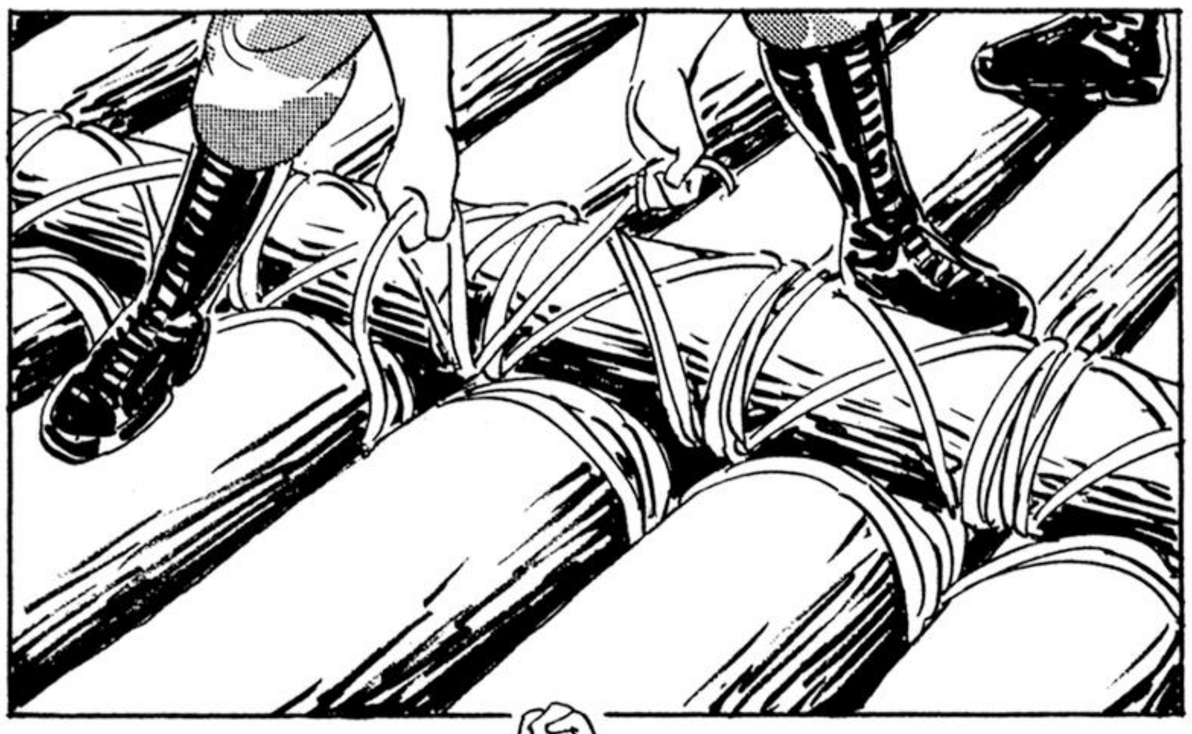
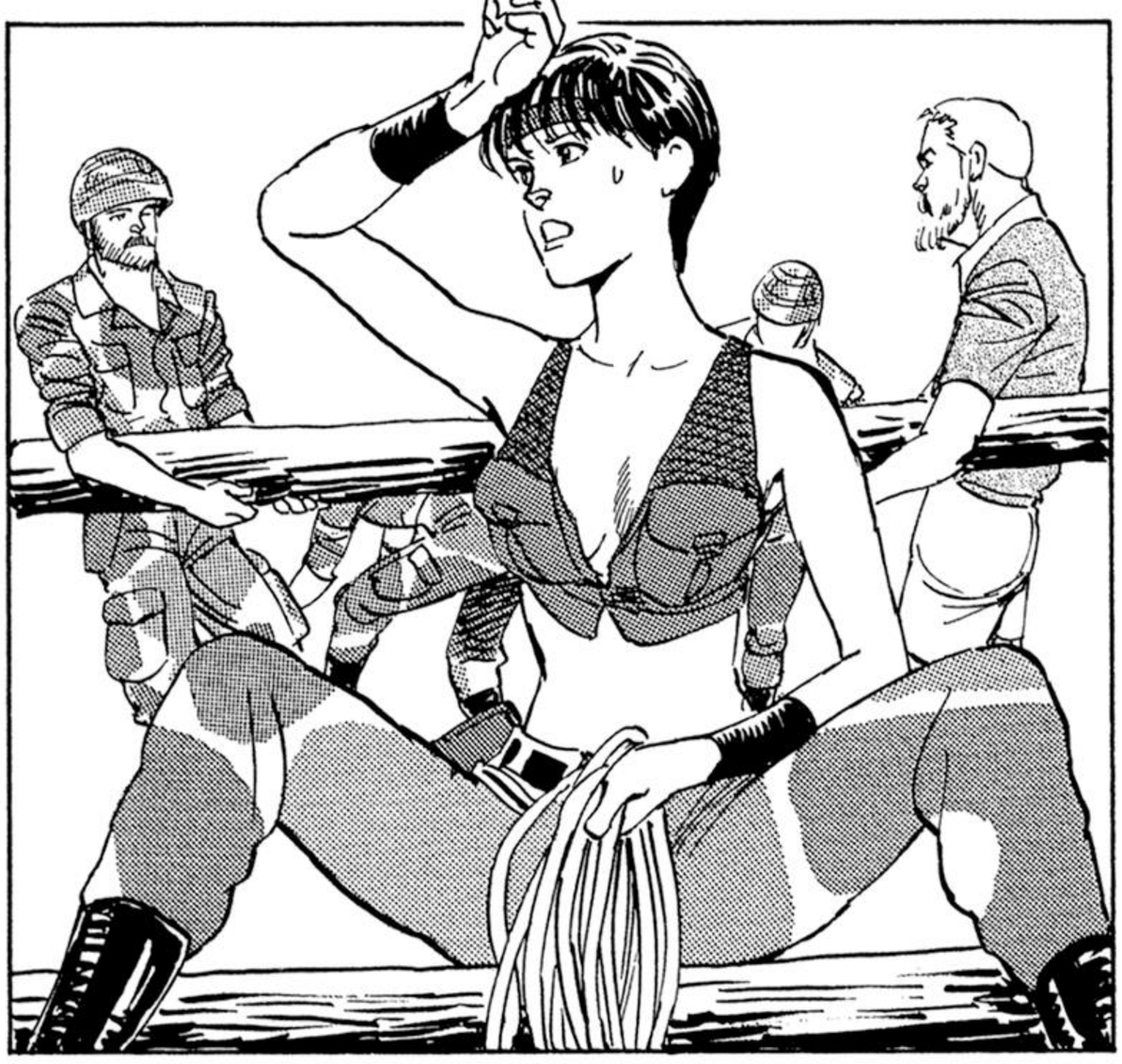
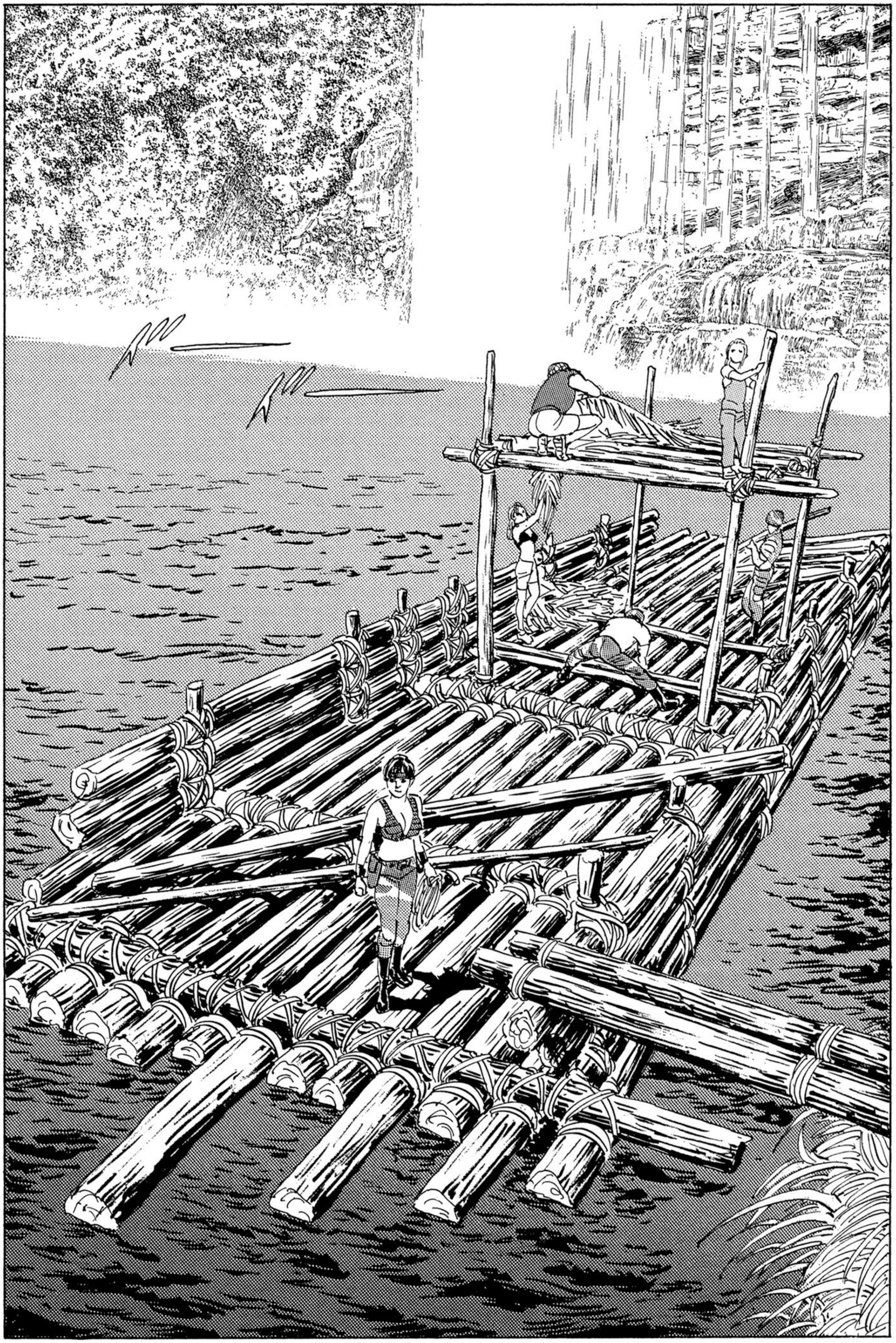


OUR HOLIDAY'S OVER. WE'RE BACK IN THE KINGDOM OF THE DINOSAURS...









# Chapter 15

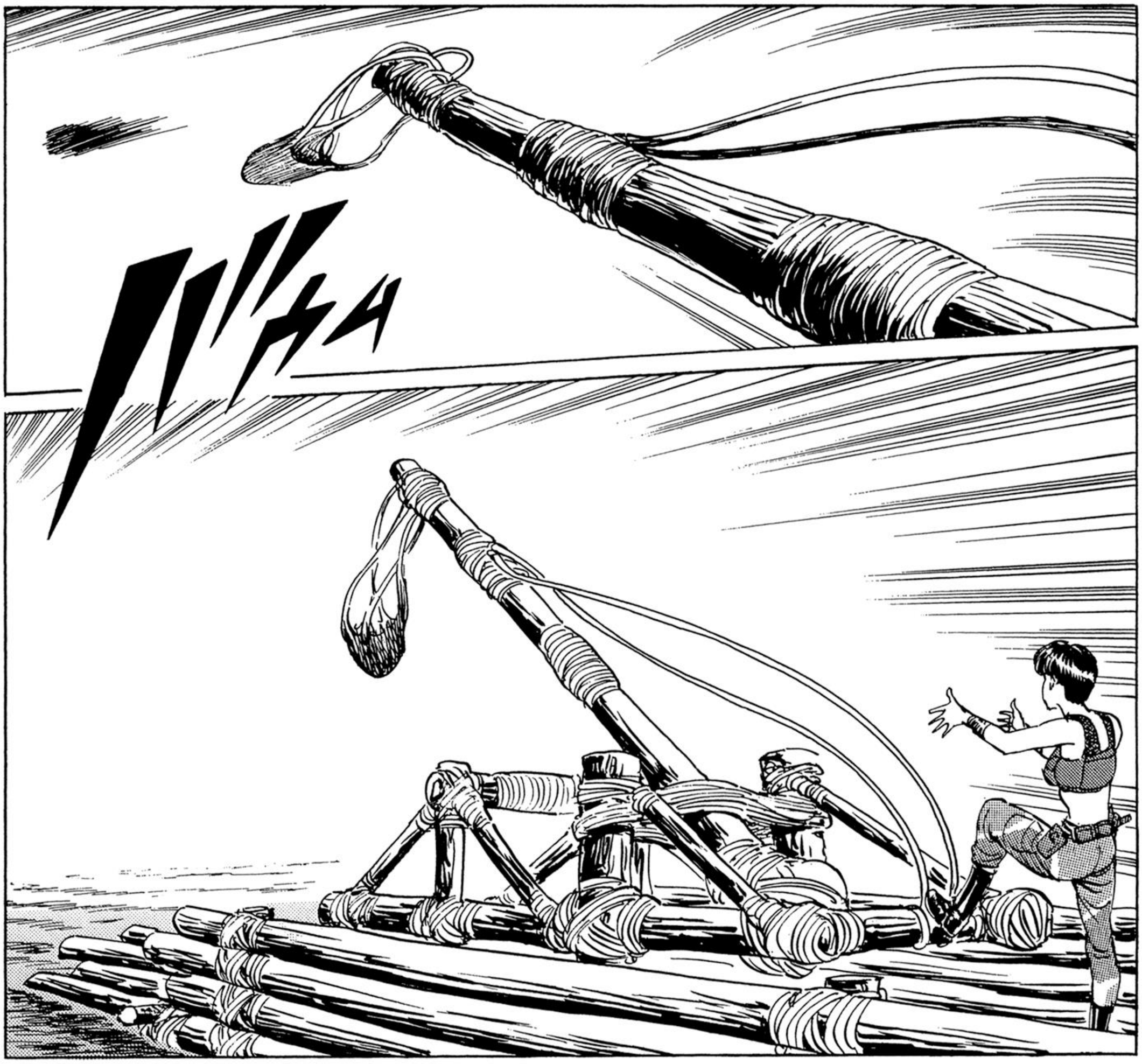
# The Torrent

LOOKS LIKE THE RIVER HEADS WEST, AFTER ALL. IT'LL BE RAPIDS AT FIRST, BUT THAT JUST MEANS WE CAN COVER MORE GROUND.

TRUE, A RIVER'S A LOT EASIER THAN A TREK THROUGH THE JUNGLE. ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW CLOSE CAN IT GET US TO AFRICA'S WEST COAST?

IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT TO GO NORTH THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS. I KNEW THERE'D BE A RIVER RUNNING WEST.

THAT RAFT LOOKS A LITTLE TOO UNSTABLE, AND WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE THAT THE RIVER'S SAFE...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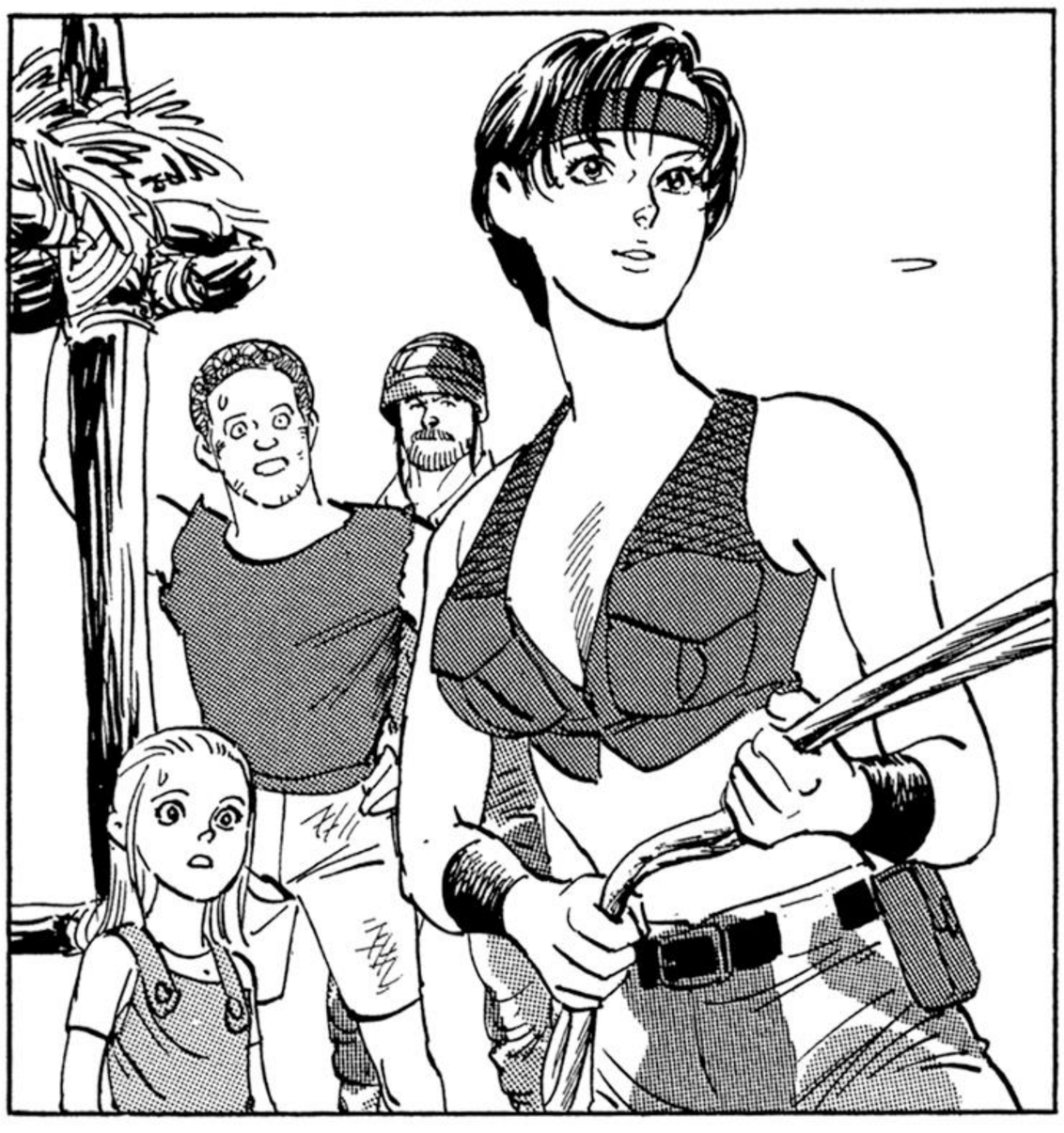

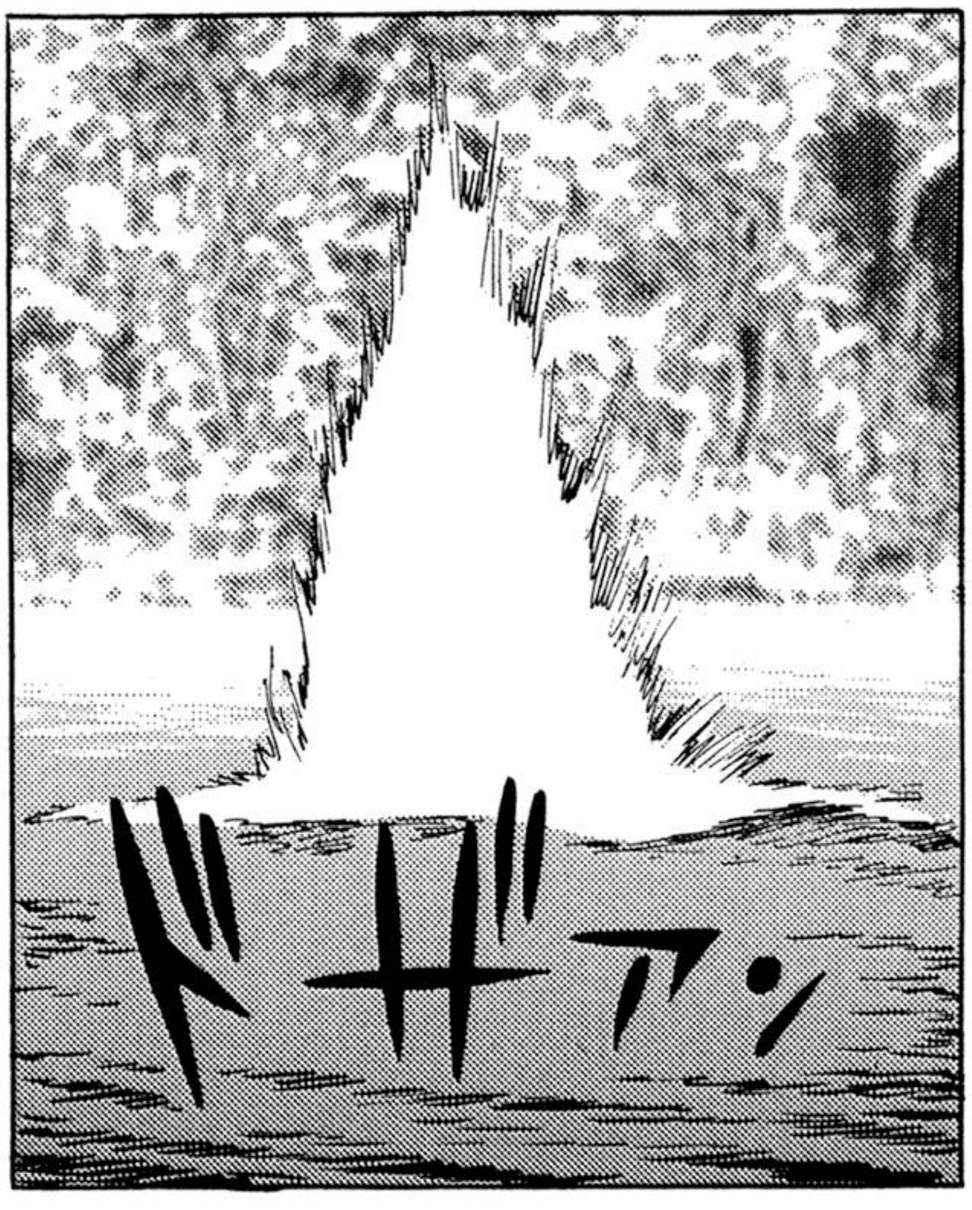
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LOOKS ALMOST LIKE A ROMAN CATAPULT. I GUESS THIS MAKES OUR RAFT A BATTLESHIP.

HEHE... IT'S A LITTLE BIT PATHETIC FOR ONE OF MODERN MAN'S WEAPONS, BUT AT LEAST IT'LL SPOOK SOME DINOSAURS.

I'VE GATHERED UP EVERYTHING THAT LOOKS EDIBLE! NOW START LOADING IT UP!

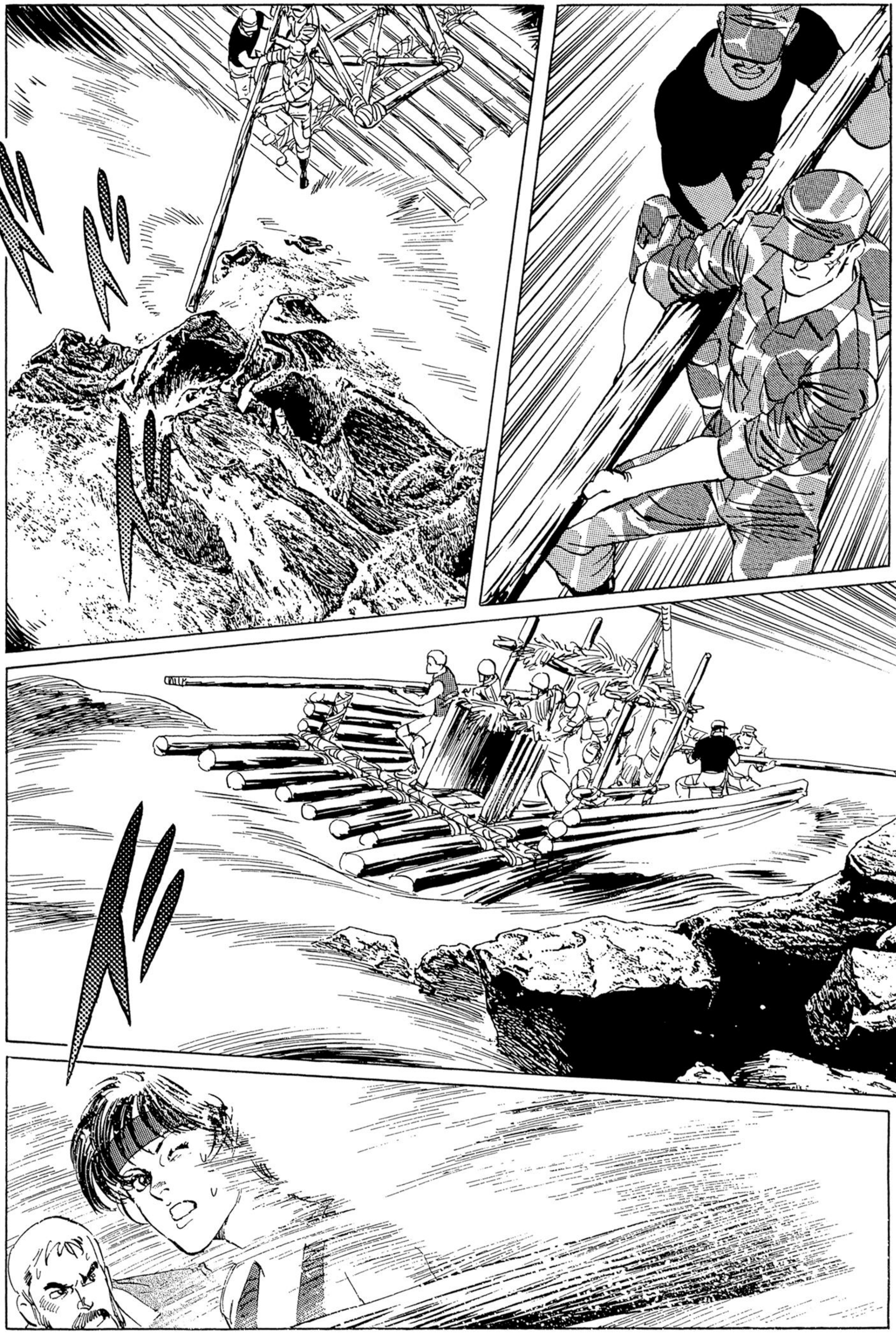
WE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY BUILDING THIS RAFT! WE'RE LEAVING AS SOON AS IT'S READY!

LET'S GET DOWN THE RIVER!!

WATCH OUT! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

AHH!

AIIIEE EEEE!



T... THE BACK'S CAUGHT ON SOMETHING! PUSH US FREE!!

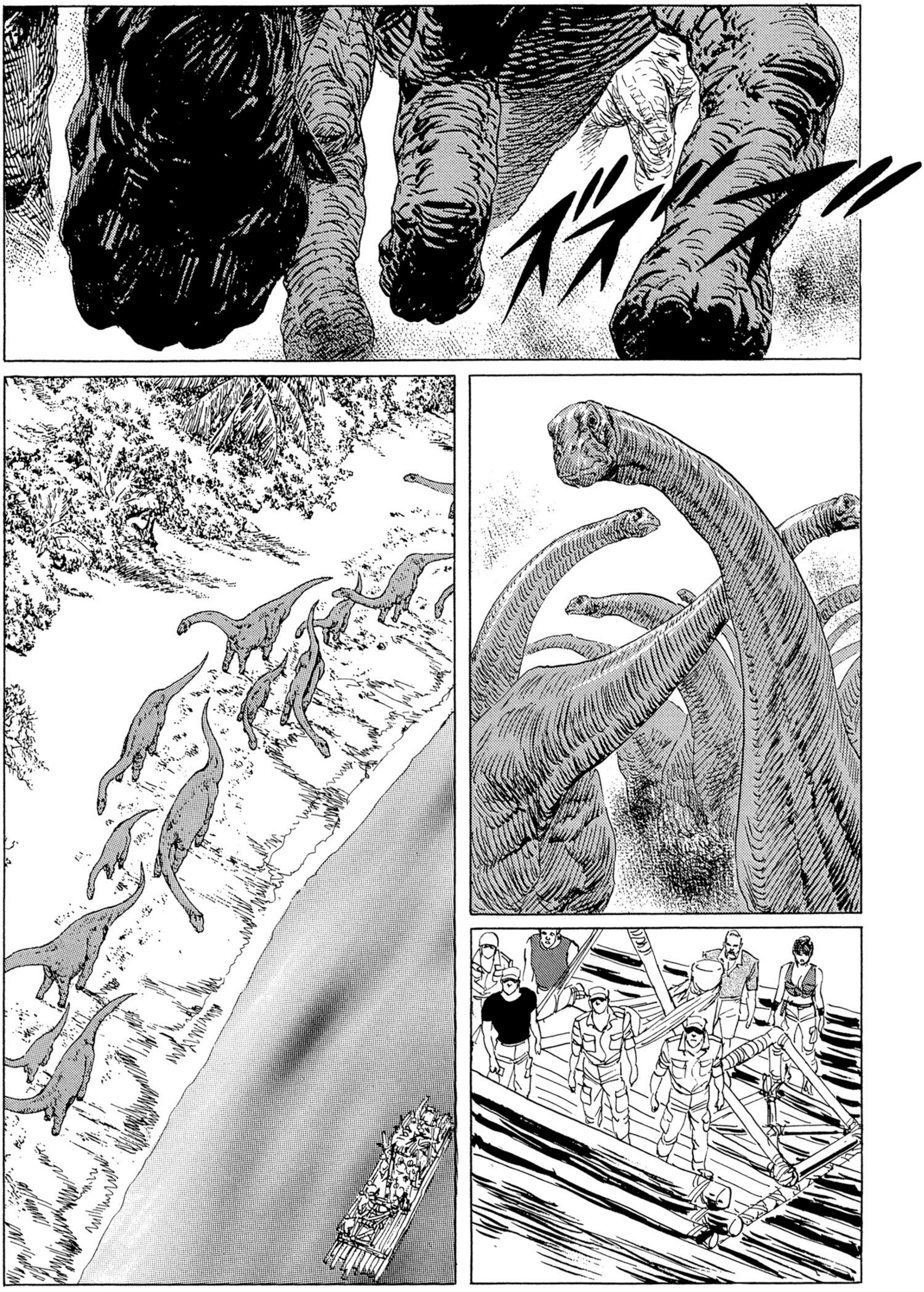
WE GOT THIS!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE MADE IT TO THE MAIN STREAM. THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE DANGEROUS ROCKS...

HUH?

...BUT I BET THIS WOULD LOOK LIKE A FLOATING LEAF TO THEM...

PHEW... I USED TO GO CANOEING DOWNRIVER BACK IN SCHOOL, BUT THIS GIANT RAFT'S GONNA BE THE DEATH OF ME...



IF THEY CROSSED THE RIVER LIKE THE OTHER ONES DID, WE'D BE TRAMPLED...

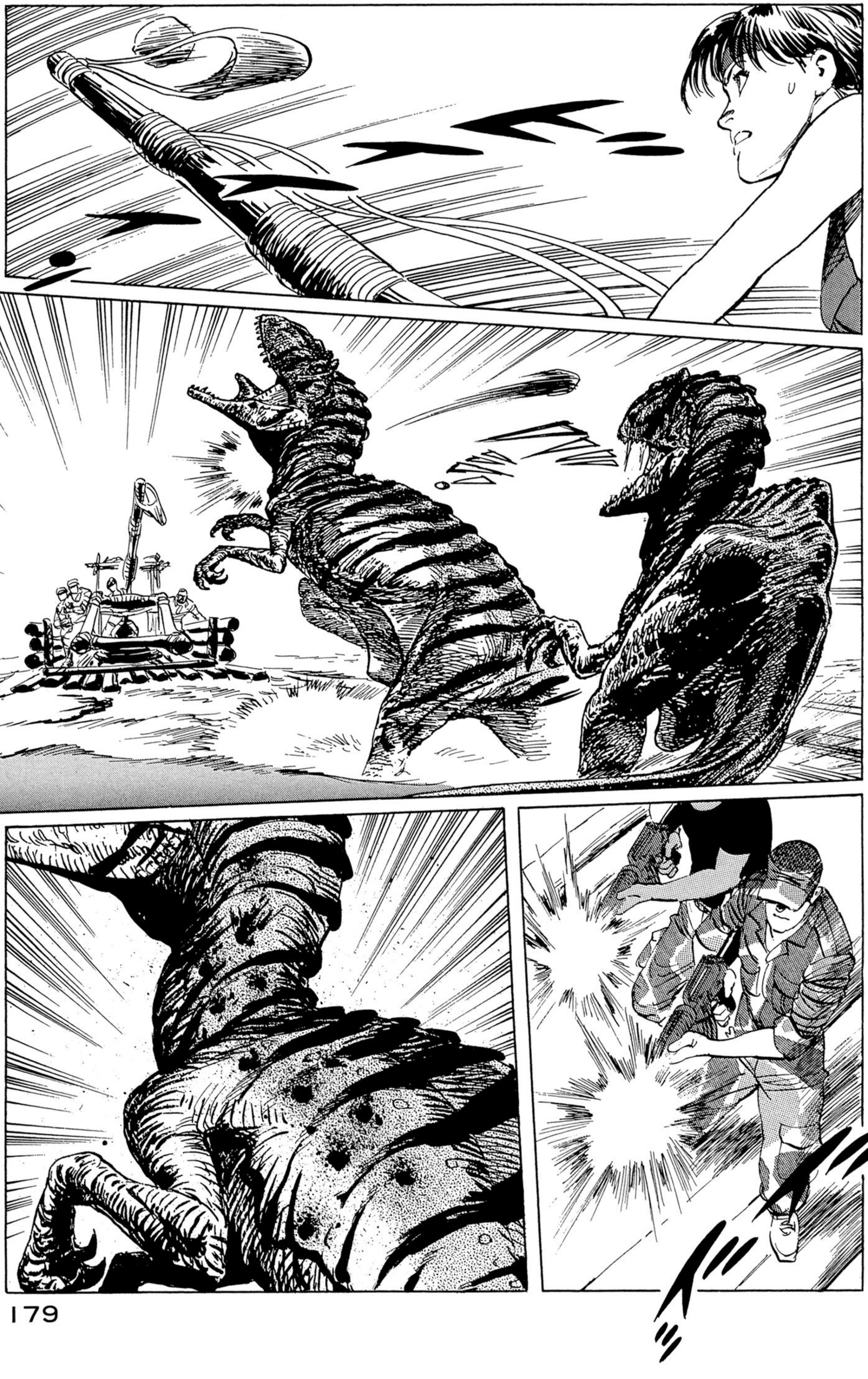
HUFF HUFF

HROOOM

MEGALO-SAURUS!!

THEY'RE GONNA RAM RIGHT INTO US!

ROOAARR!

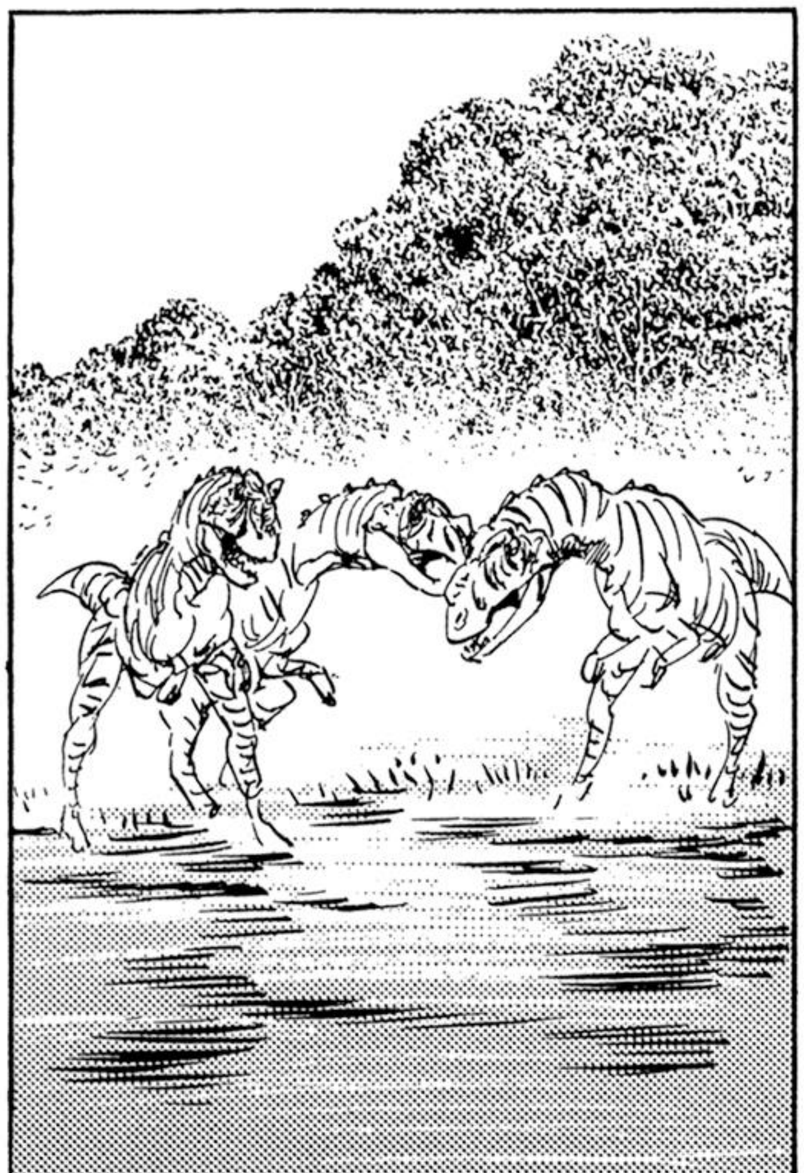


REEEAARR!

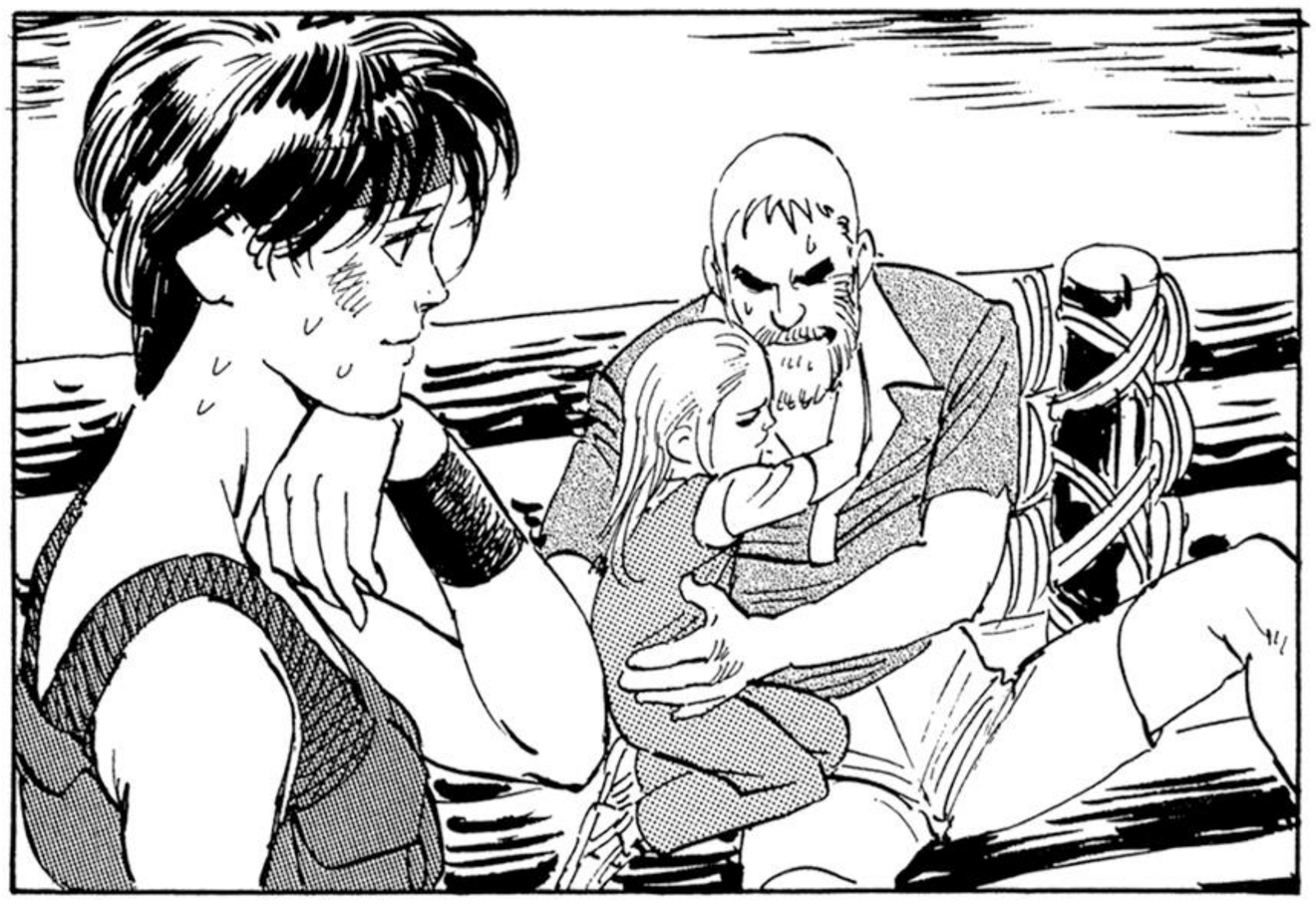
HOLD ON TIGHT!!

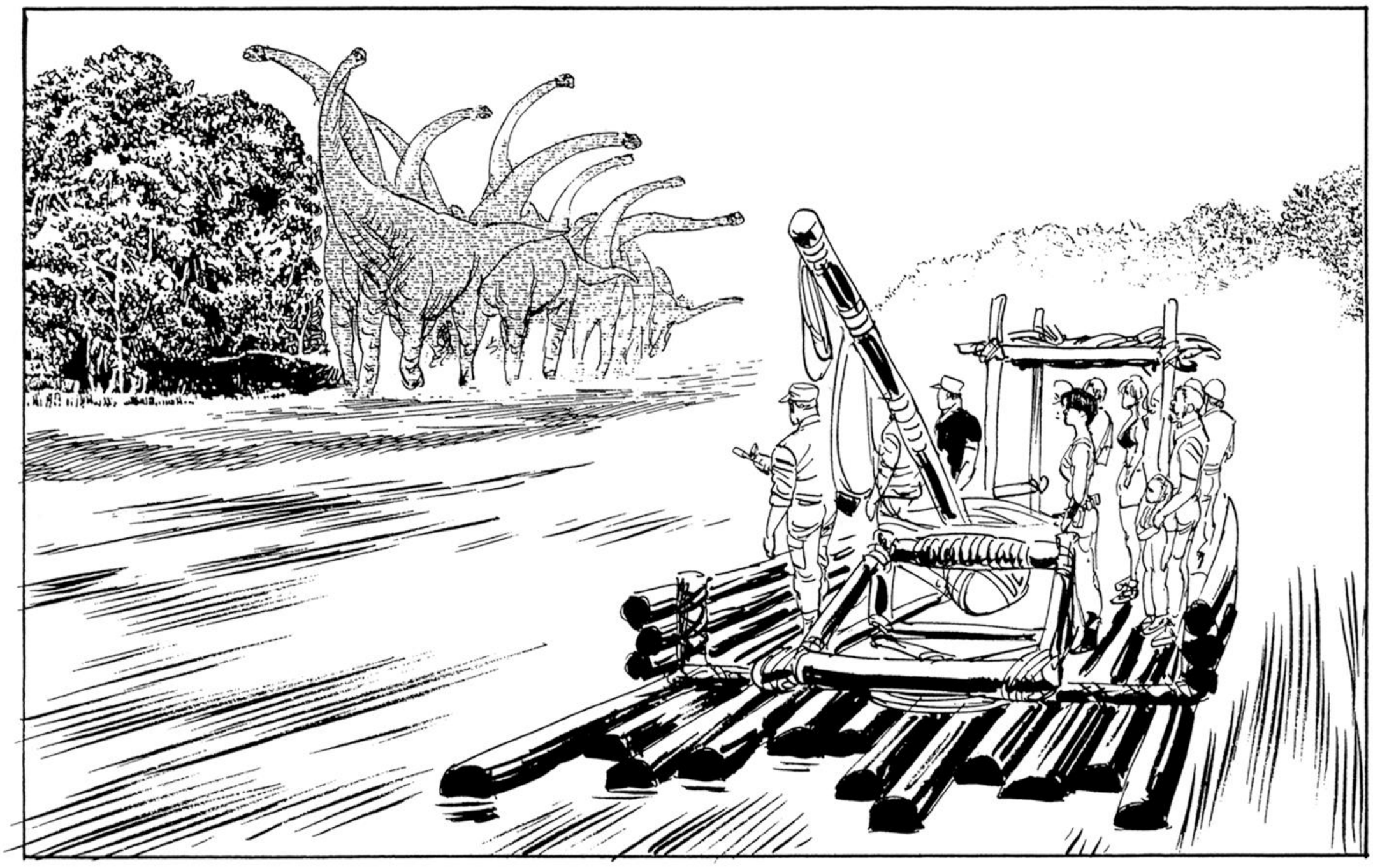
WAAAUGH!

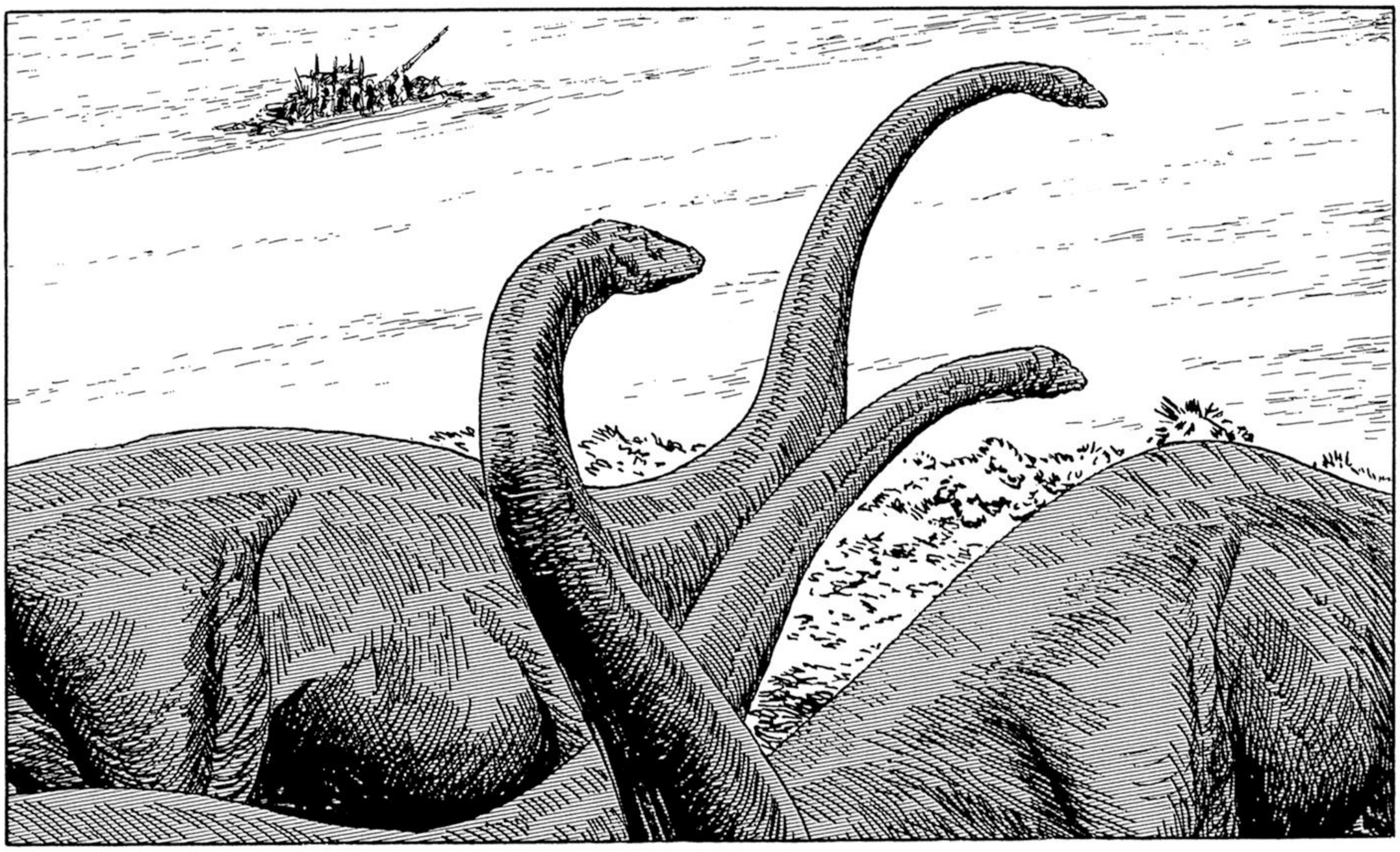
GRAND-PA!!

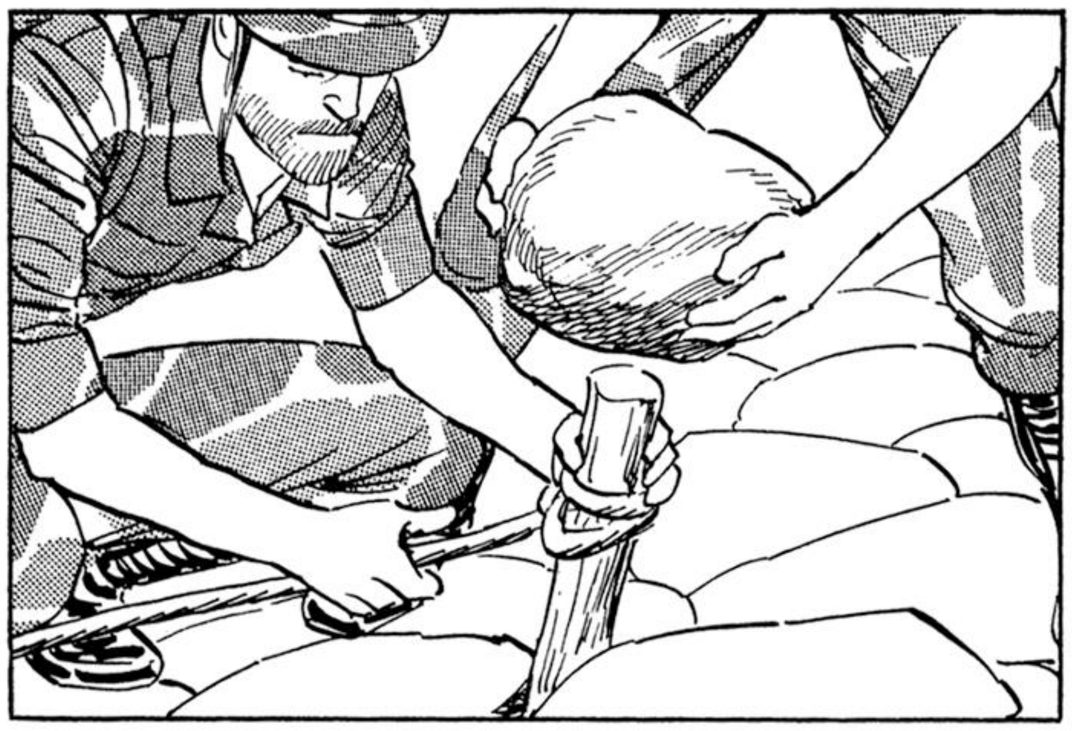


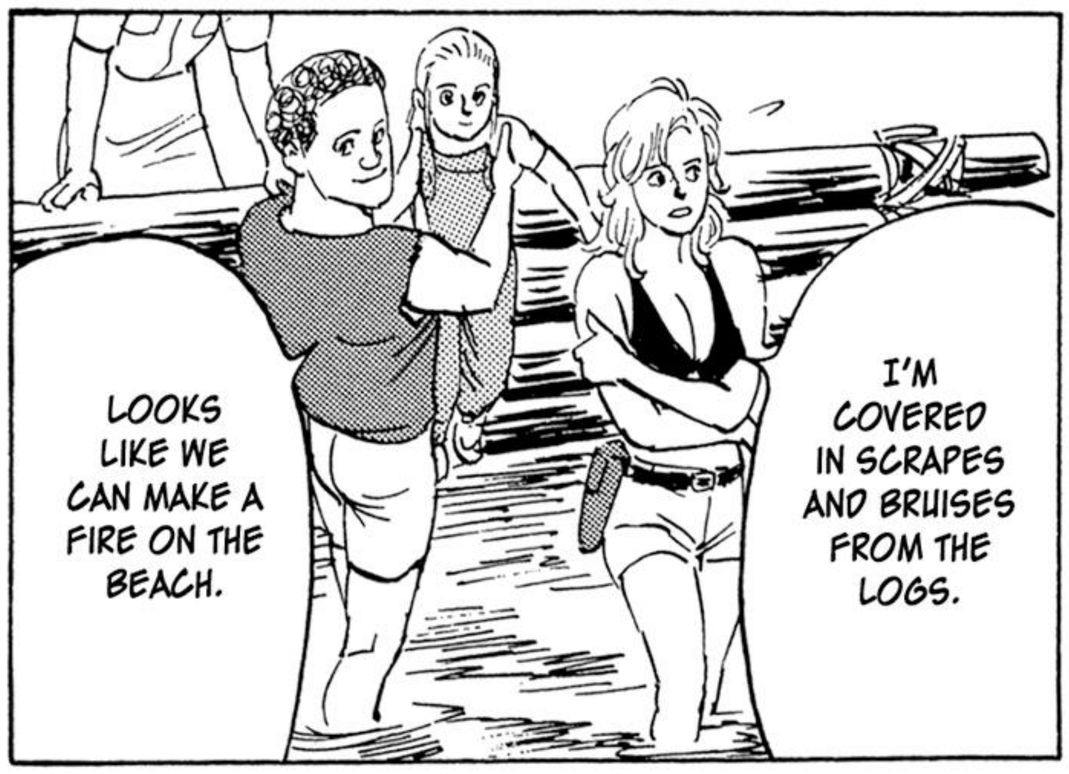
THANKS, JEAN. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SAVED ME NOW...?

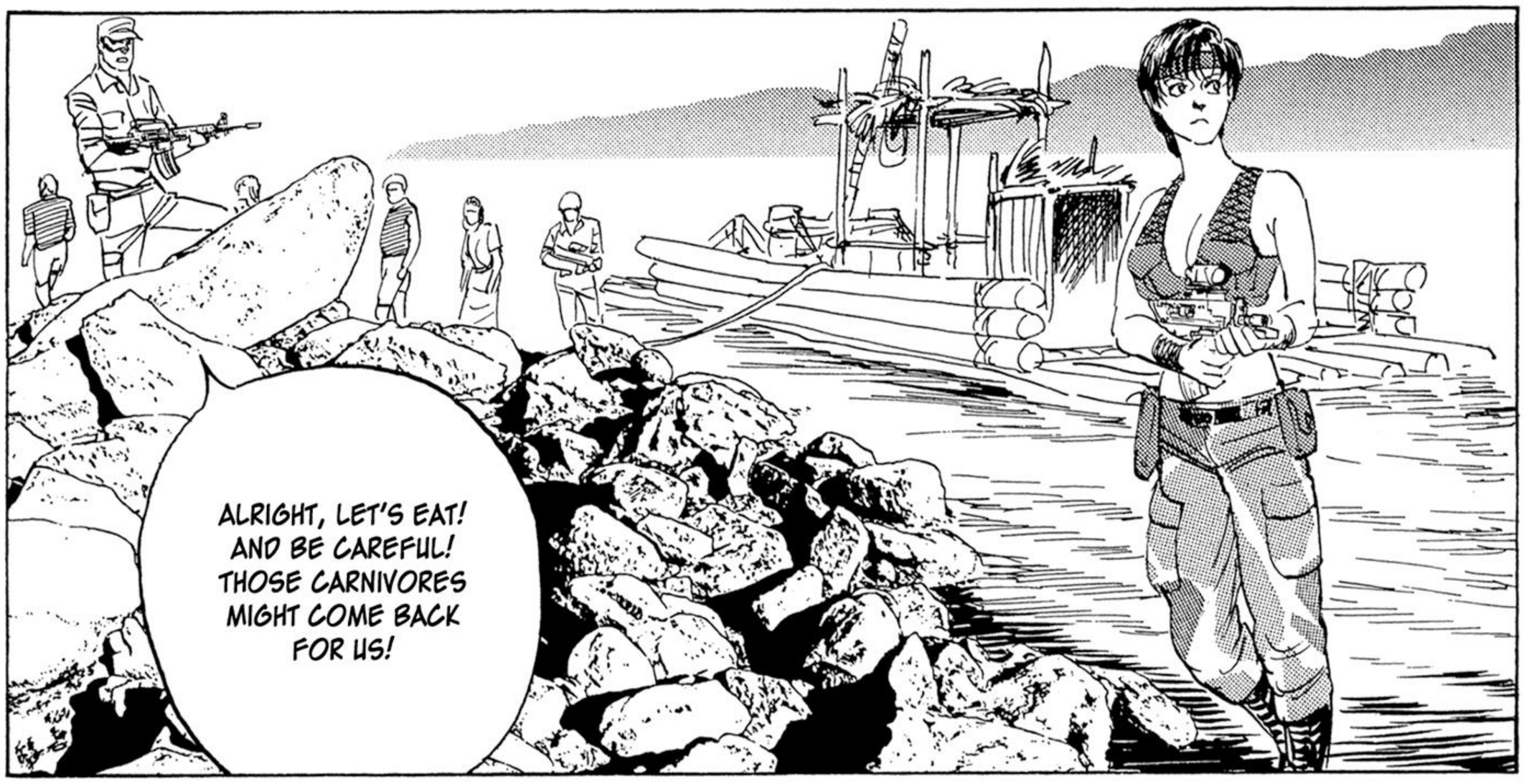


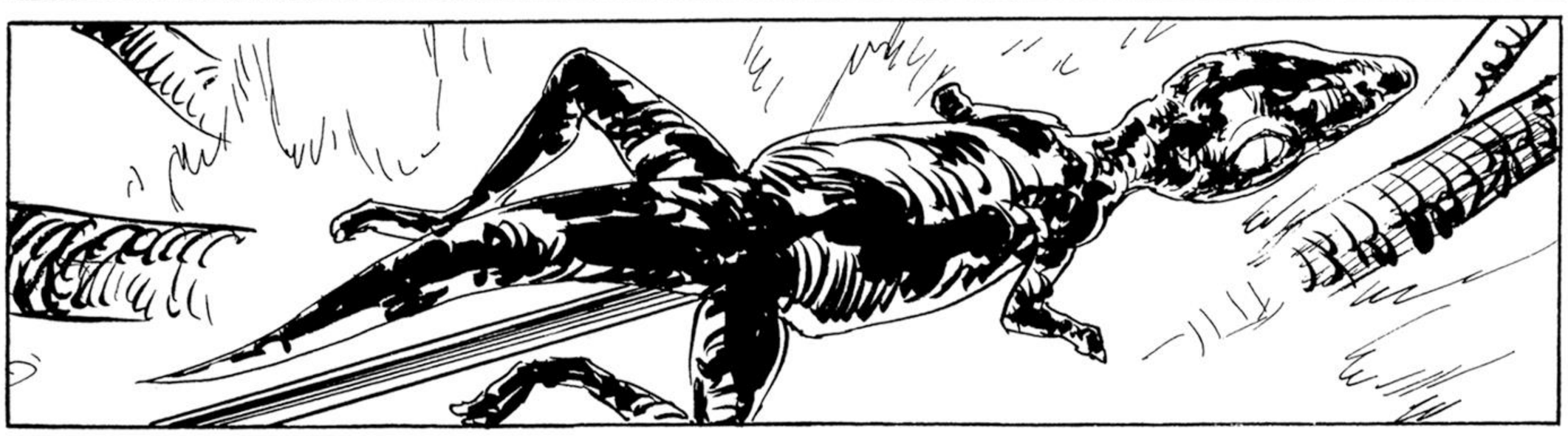







LOOKS LIKE WE CAN MAKE A FIRE ON THE BEACH.
I'M COVERED IN SCRAPES AND BRUISES FROM THE LOGS.


ALRIGHT, LET'S EAT! AND BE CAREFUL! THOSE CARNIVORES MIGHT COME BACK FOR US!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JEAN?

STOCKING UP ON STONES FOR THE CATAPULT.

DELICIOUS! NOTHING IN THIS WORLD BEATS LIZARD MEAT!

I'LL HELP YOU LOOK, TOO!

I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO EAT THE MAMMALS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

IS THIS STONE BIG ENOUGH?

HEHE... IT WON'T PACK MUCH OF A PUNCH IF YOU CAN LIFT IT THAT EASILY.

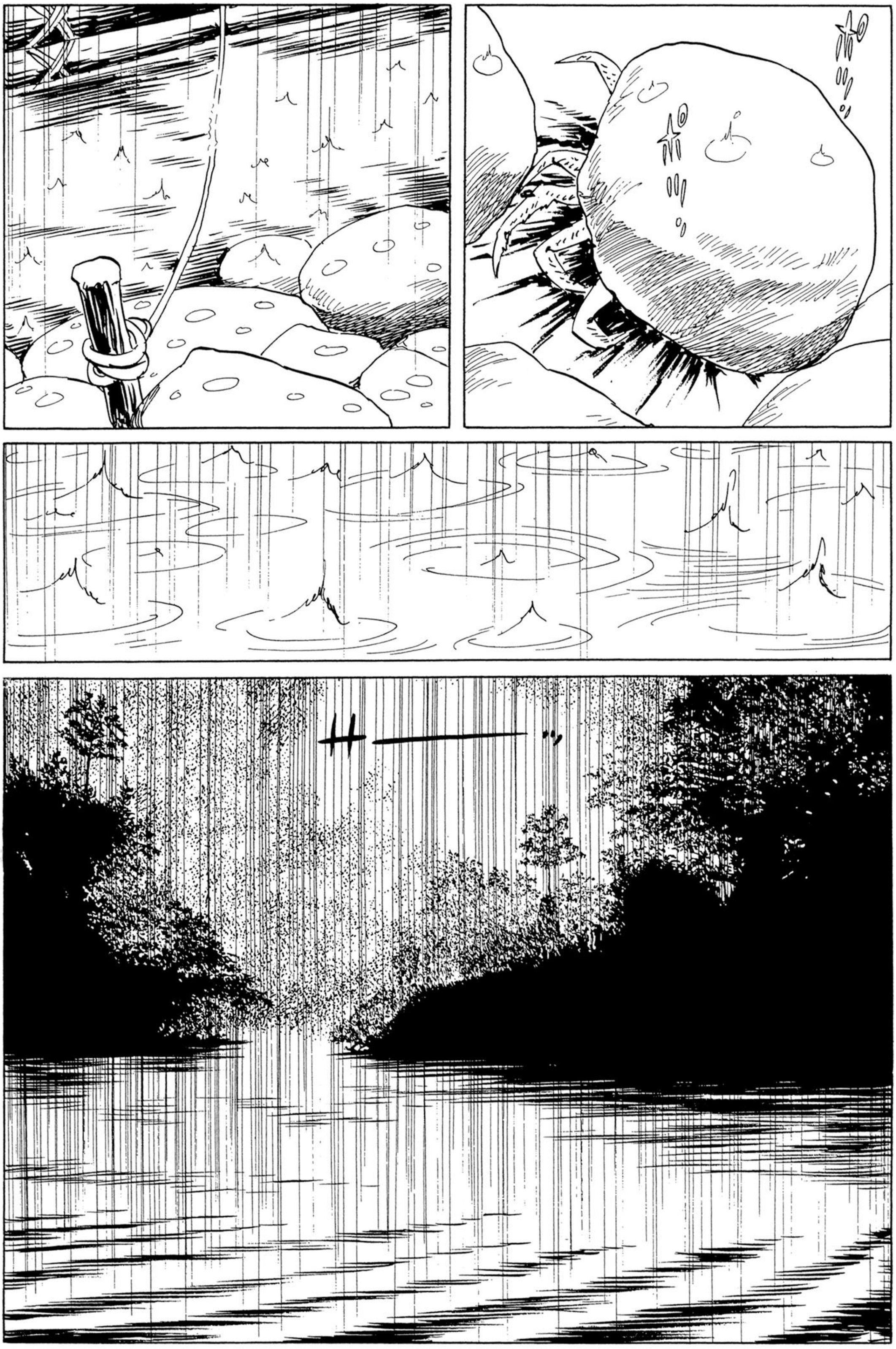
EEEEEEK!

MARGIE!?

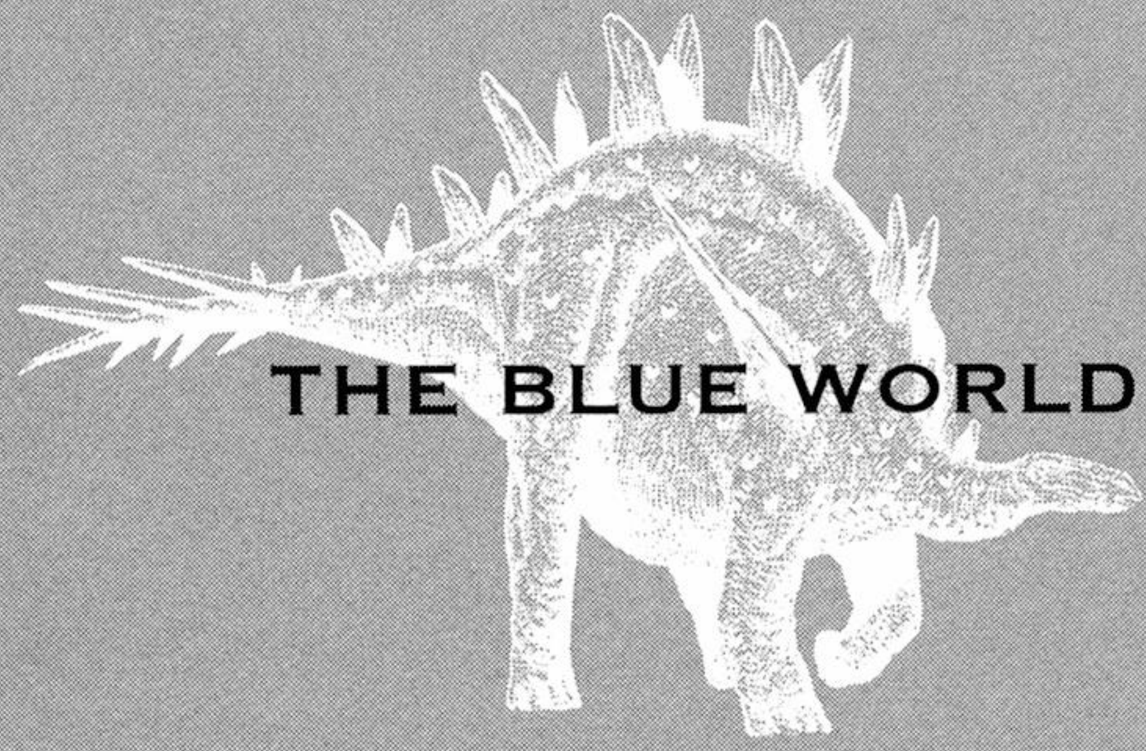
THAT MUST'VE BEEN A POISONOUS SPIDER...

MARGIE!!

POISON-OUS...!?



THE BLUE WORLD



# THE BLUE WORLD

Chapter 16

# The Decision

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I FEEL...
SO COLD...

PLEASE!
YOU GOTTA
SAVE
MARGIE...!

ALL I'VE GOT
TO HELP HER IS
AN ANTIPYRETIC.
I DON'T HAVE ANY
SERUM OR ANTIDOTE.
IT'LL BE TOUGH...

HOW THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW!?

YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU'RE NOT GONNA DIE! YOU'RE GONNA PULL THROUGH, MARGIE!

WHETHER IT'S BEES, SPIDERS, SNAKES, OR LIZARDS, THE MORE COLORFUL AN ANIMAL IS, THE MORE POISONOUS IT IS.

THE SAME SHOULD HOLD TRUE IN THE JURASSIC PERIOD.

IF IT WAS POISONOUS, IT WOULD HAVE MORE STRIKING COLORS, AS A WARNING TO PREDATORS!

THAT SPIDER WAS MIMICKING A ROCK ON THE RIVERBED, AS CAMOUFLAGE TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM PREDATORS.

SO IT'S THE POISON AGAINST HER WILL TO LIVE. BUT WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER LIKE THIS...

I SEE...

THEN THERE MIGHT STILL BE HOPE FOR HER, PAT...

WE SHOULD SPLIT UP AND SEARCH, SO WE CAN FIND A PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOMEWHERE WITH SHELTER FROM THE RAIN!

WE'VE PUT HER ON THE RAFT TO SHELTER HER FROM THE RAIN, BUT THE ROCKING OF THE RAFT MIGHT MAKE THE POISON SPREAD MORE QUICKLY. WE SHOULD MOVE HER TO SHORE AND WARM HER UP BY A FIRE.

THIS HEAVY RAIN'S MAKING THE RIVER FLOOD, AND THE CURRENT'S GETTING STRONGER. WE CAN'T KEEP THE RAFT TIED DOWN ANY LONGER!

SO IF WE GO ASHORE NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO LET GO OF THIS RAFT!

BUT IF WE RIDE THIS CURRENT, WE CAN COVER SOME MORE DISTANCE FASTER!

WE NEED TO GET TO THE WEST COAST AS SOON AS WE CAN, AND THIS'LL MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

NOT UNTIL THE FLOODING'S STOPPED. AND BY THEN, THE CURRENT WILL BE SLOWER.

BUT WE CAN JUST BUILD ANOTHER RAFT!

WE'VE GOT TWO CHOICES.

EITHER WE LEAVE WITH HER ON THE RAFT,

OR WE LEAVE WITHOUT HER!

L...
LEAVE
MARGIE
BEHIND...!?

...

IT'S UP TO
YOU TO DECIDE.
WE CAN'T LET JUST
ONE PERSON HOLD
EVERYONE ELSE BACK.
THAT SHOULD BE
OBVIOUS BY NOW.

I WON'T LET YOU DIE ALONE, MARGIE...

HARRY!?

SERGEANT SCHMITT, LEND HARRY A HAND! AND GET ALL OUR EQUIPMENT TO SHORE!!

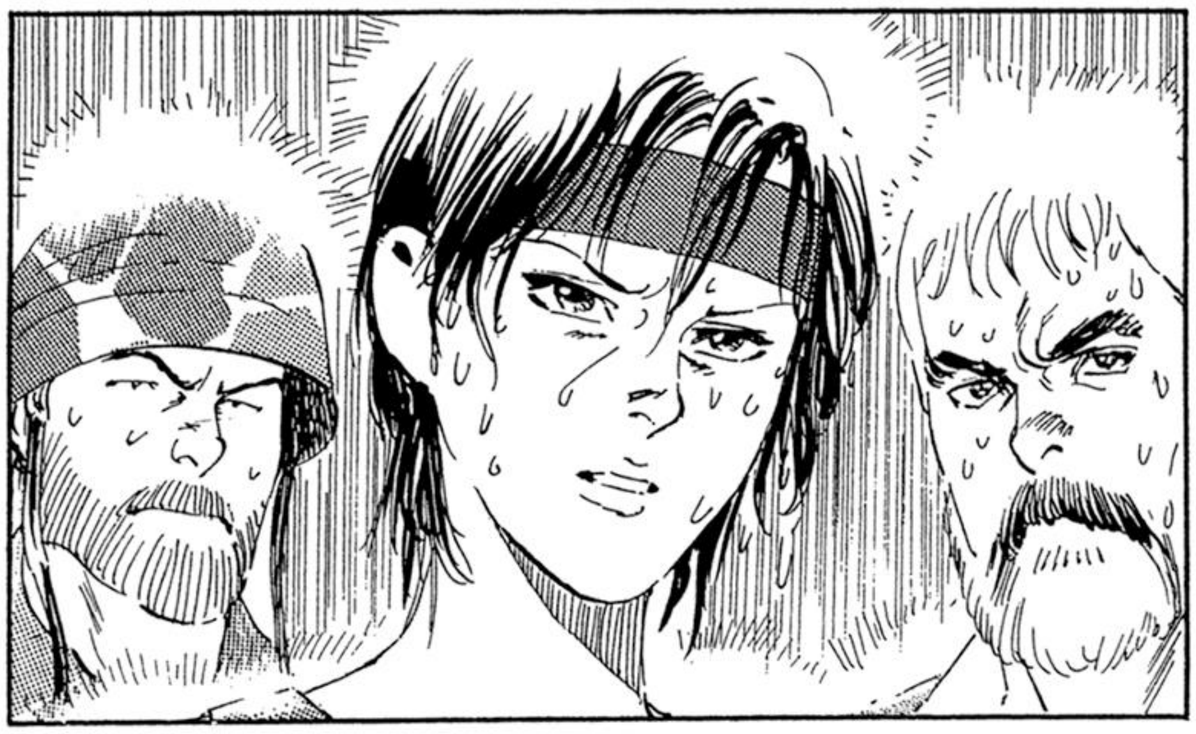
YES, MA'AM!

HUH!!

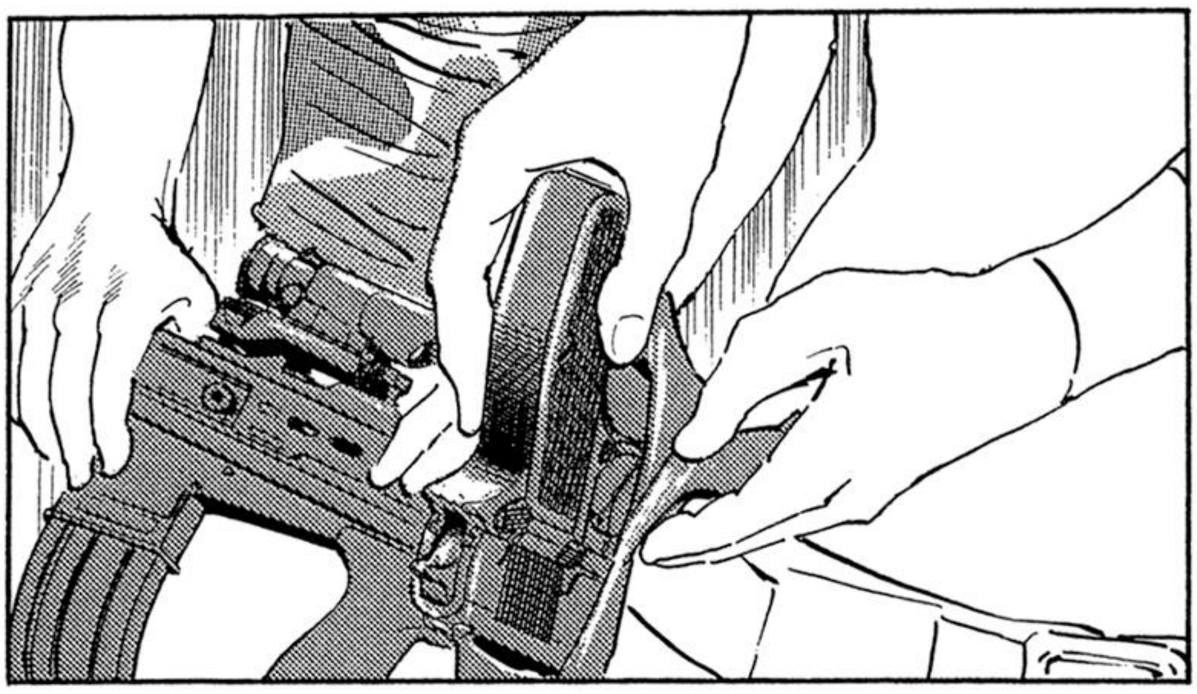
DON'T MOVE!

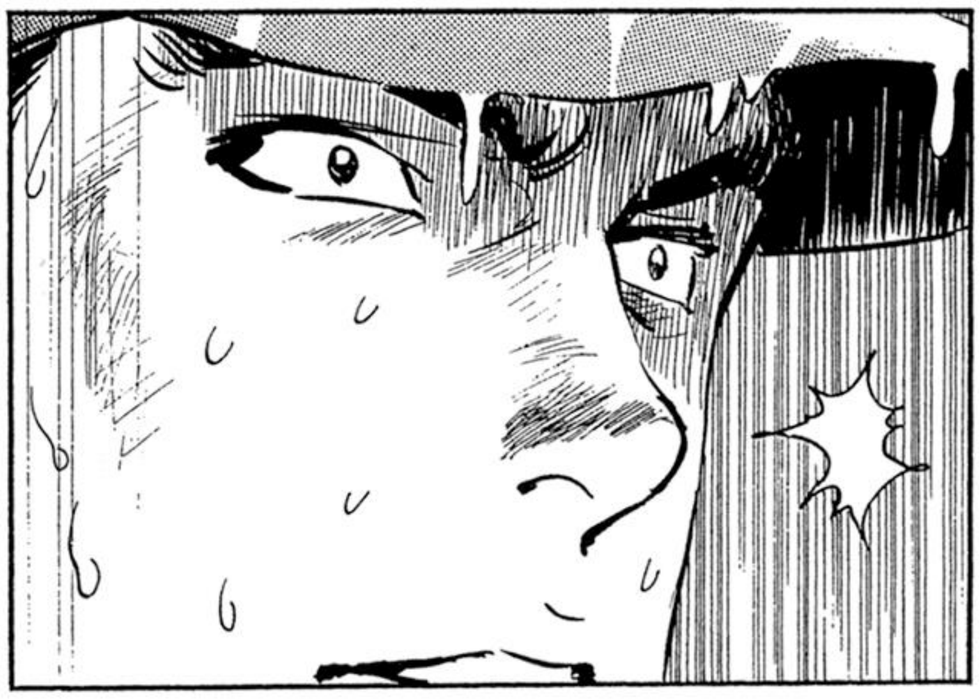
HERE, HARRY...

LIEUTENANT GROCK, WE BRITS ARE ALL GETTING OFF THIS RAFT. WE'LL BUILD ANOTHER RAFT AND COME AFTER YOU...!



WE'RE A SMALL ENOUGH GROUP ALREADY. IF WE SPLIT UP ANY FURTHER, WE'RE ALL DEAD! WHAT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS... PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!





DID YOU TAKE THE SAFETY OFF THAT THING, LITTLE MISSY?

I SURE DID!

PAT!?

IF YOU DON'T HELP MARGIE, I'LL SHOOT!

AND I'M BRACING FOR THE RECOIL, TOO!

...OH, REALLY?

DON'T MOVE! PAT, GET DOWN!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS! PAT, GET AWAY! NOW!

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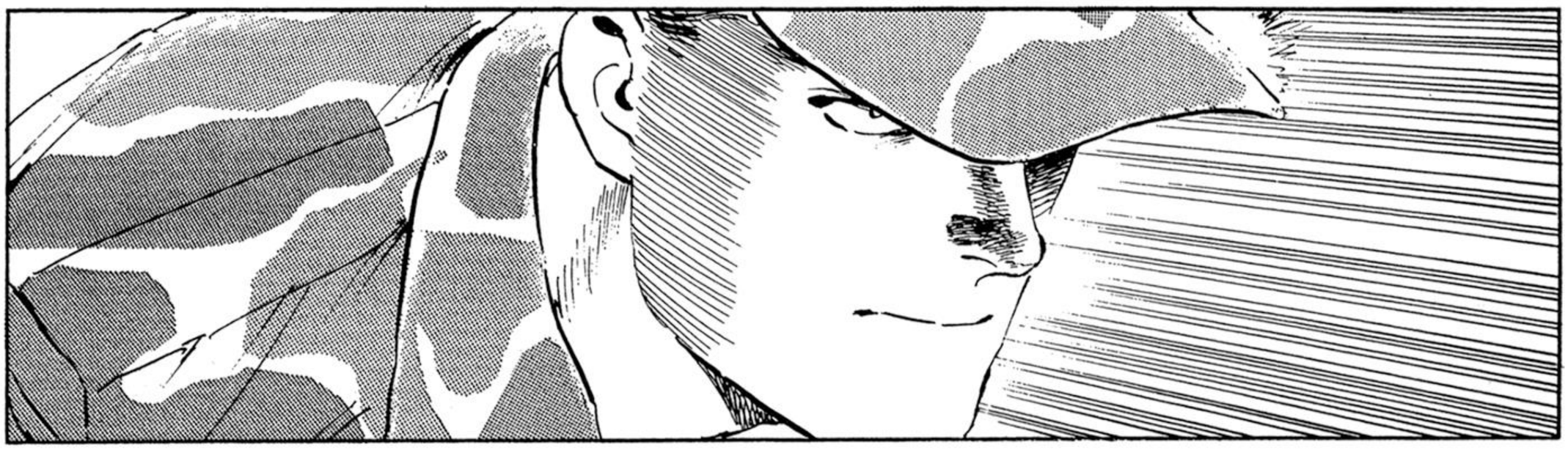
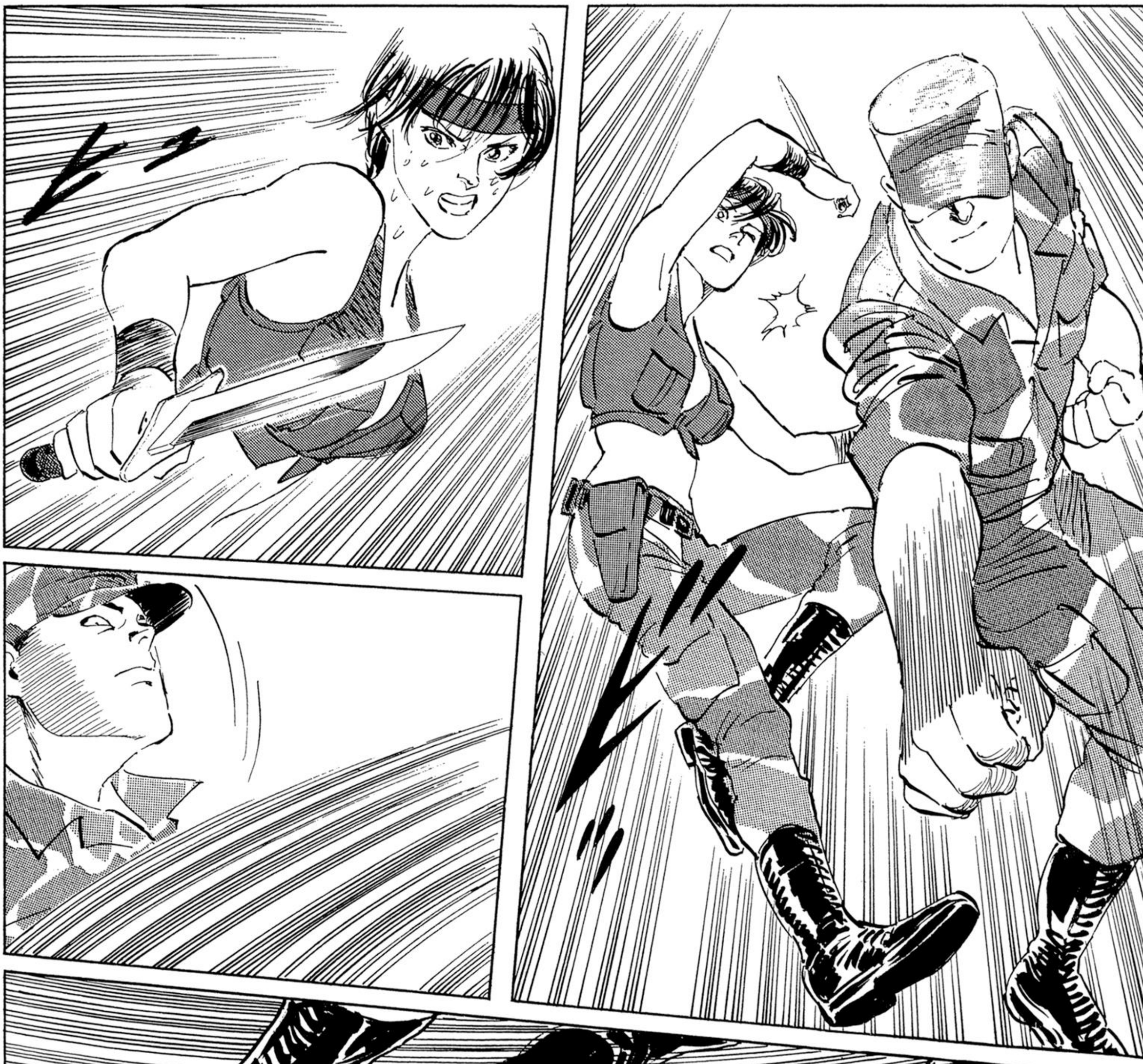
HEHEHE...

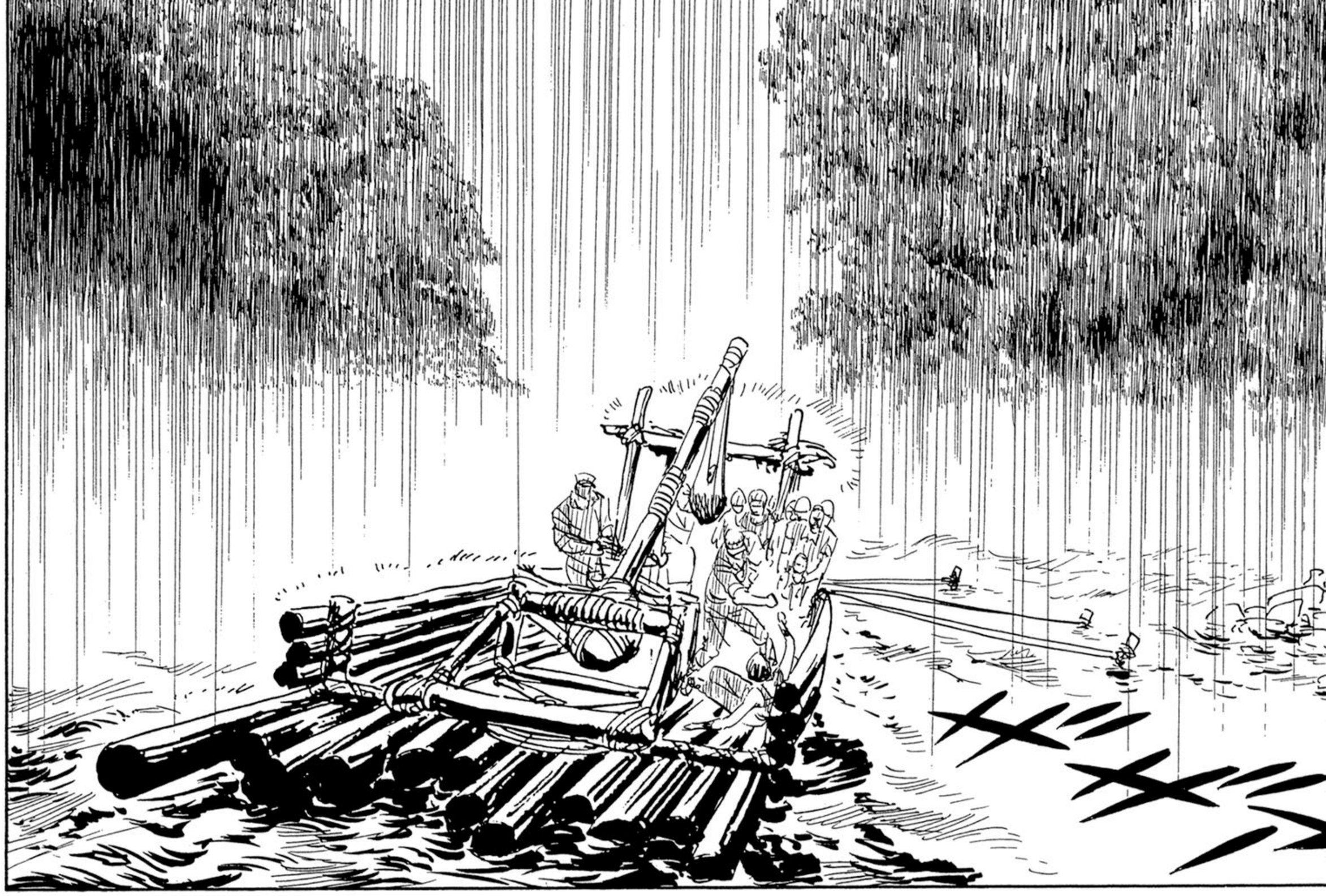
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TAKE ME ON IN CLOSE-QUARTERS COMBAT, ARE YOU, LIEUTENANT HART?

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN OUT OF THE MILITARY, BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH AN ACTIVE OFFICER?



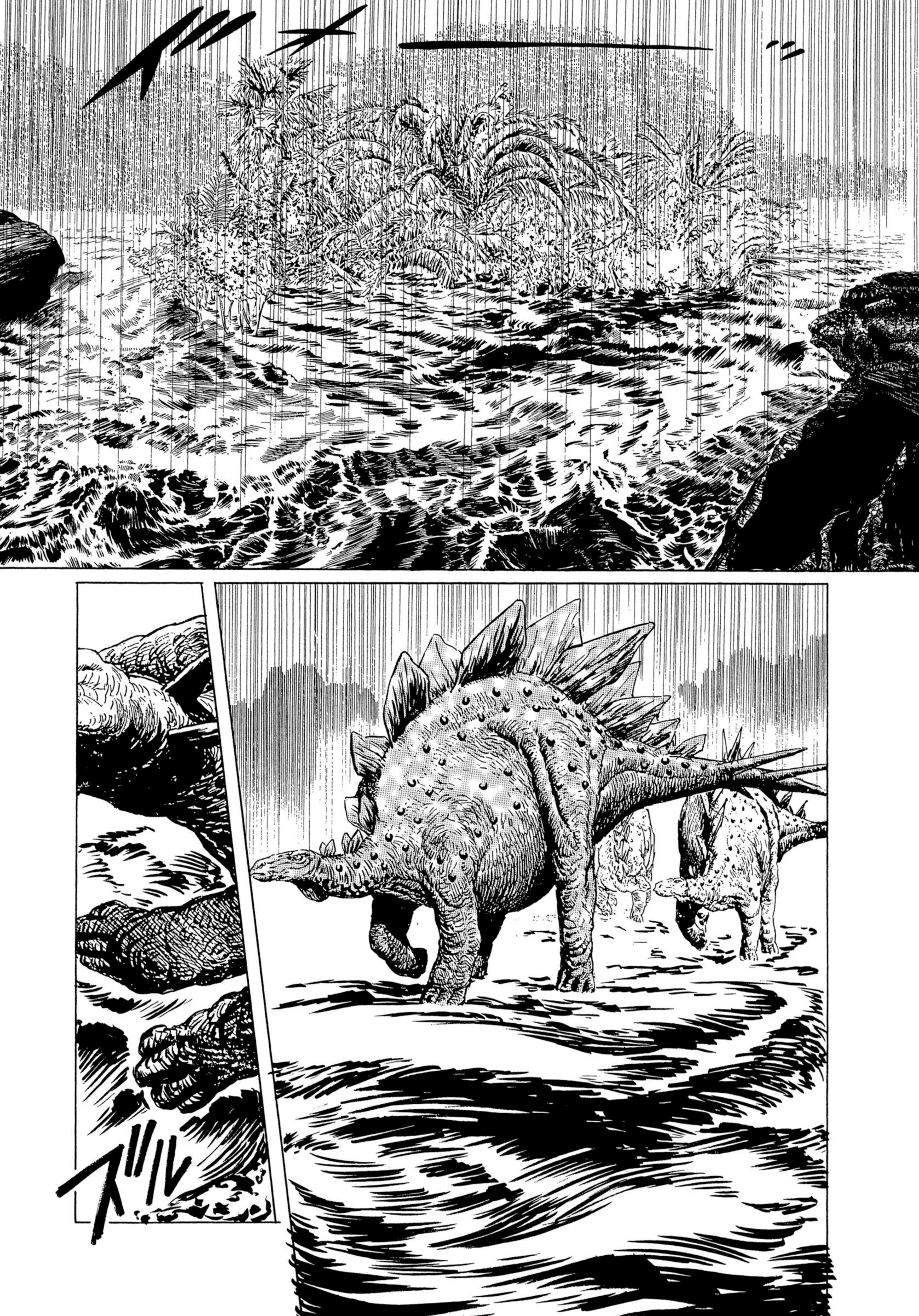


KI!
JEAN!!



WHOA, THERE!

!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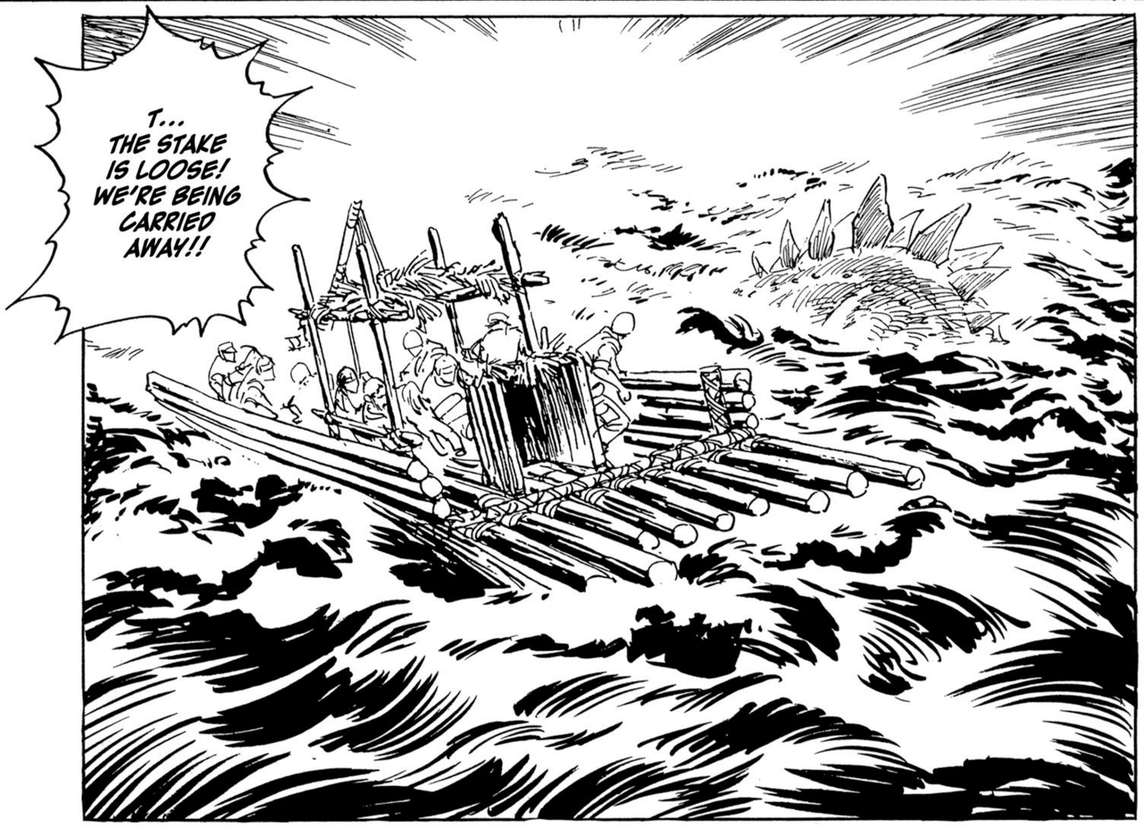
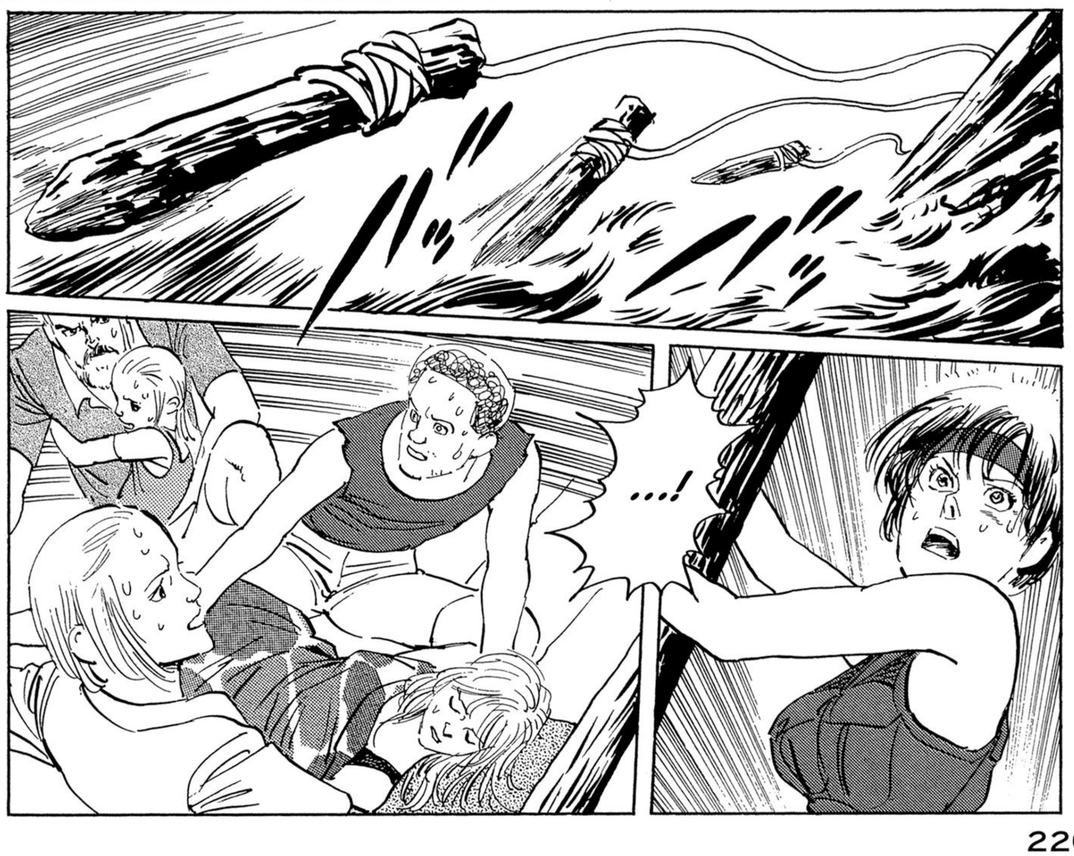
HEEEEHHH!!

!

ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH PLAYING AROUND.

HUH!?


T...
THE STAKE IS LOOSE! WE'RE BEING CARRIED AWAY!!


...!

HEH!

LOOKS LIKE JUDGMENT'S BEEN PASSED. I GUESS THE LORD WAS ALREADY HERE IN THE JURASSIC PERIOD. HEHEHE...

KI-KI-KI-KI-KI

EVERYONE WHOSE HANDS ARE FREE, KEEP LOOKOUT! WATCH OUT FOR DRIFTWOOD AND ROCKS!!

SHE WAS REALLY GOING TO SHOOT, AND GROCK WOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN HER ANY COMPASSION...

YOU SAVED PAT'S LIFE.

HE'S LIKE A LETHAL WEAPON...

IF HE WAS TAKING OUR FIGHT SERIOUSLY, I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD BY NOW.

SHE'S FIGHTING, JUST LIKE YOU...

...HOW'S MARGIE?

BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED HIM, IF WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE...

HUFF HUFF

and the raft was swept away by the muddy stream, with no way for them to check their course...

The heavy rain lasted for three days and three nights,

# Chapter 17
# The Epitaph

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S PAST THE WORST...

I'M SO HUNGRY...

GOOD! YOU JUST NEED TO EAT WELL, AND YOU'LL BE BETTER IN NO TIME!

I GOT ONE!

NOT WHILE THERE'S WATER BELOW IT! THEY SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT DONE NOW!

cough cough

ISN'T THIS FIRE GOING TO BURN A HOLE IN THE RAFT?

MAKE SURE YOU COOK THEM WELL. WHO KNOWS WHAT KINDS OF PARASITES THEY COULD BE CARRYING?

WE WERE CARRIED DOWNSTREAM FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS. ASSUMING WE AVERAGED 30 TO 40 KILOMETERS AN HOUR, WE'VE EASILY GONE OVER TWO THOUSAND KILOMETERS.

OH, THANKS.

JUDGING BY THE POSITION OF THE SUN, IT APPEARS WE'RE KEEPING A WESTWARD COURSE.

SO YOU'RE ADMITTING THAT MY DECISION WAS RIGHT?

Africa

South America

EVEN ASSUMING A LITTLE MEANDERING, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT WE'RE CLOSE TO THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA!

HEHEH...

THIS ISN'T WORTH LOSING A LIFE OVER.

IF MARGIE HAD DIED ON THIS RAFT, YOU WOULDN'T BE SMILING NOW!

I'VE GOT ANOTHER SCAR ON MY FACE NOW. ANOTHER EPITAPH...

SO, HOW ARE YOUR INJURIES, LIEUTENANT HART?

EPITAPH?

FINE. HOW ABOUT YOURS?

HE HAD QUITE A LOT OF GUTS, BUT I GAVE HIM A SCAR THREE TIMES BIGGER THAN THIS... RIGHT IN HIS HEART!

THIS SCAR CAME FROM A FIGHT I HAD WITH A SERGEANT BACK IN THE DAY.

AND THAT'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN WITH THIS SCAR, TOO. I'LL BE PRAYING DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOU, LIEUTENANT HART.

OF COURSE, THAT GOT ME KICKED OFF THE SUCCESS COURSE...

BUT EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THIS SCAR, I PRAY FOR HIS SOUL.

BUT I SHOT A SOLDIER DEAD FOR THAT EXACT SAME REASON.

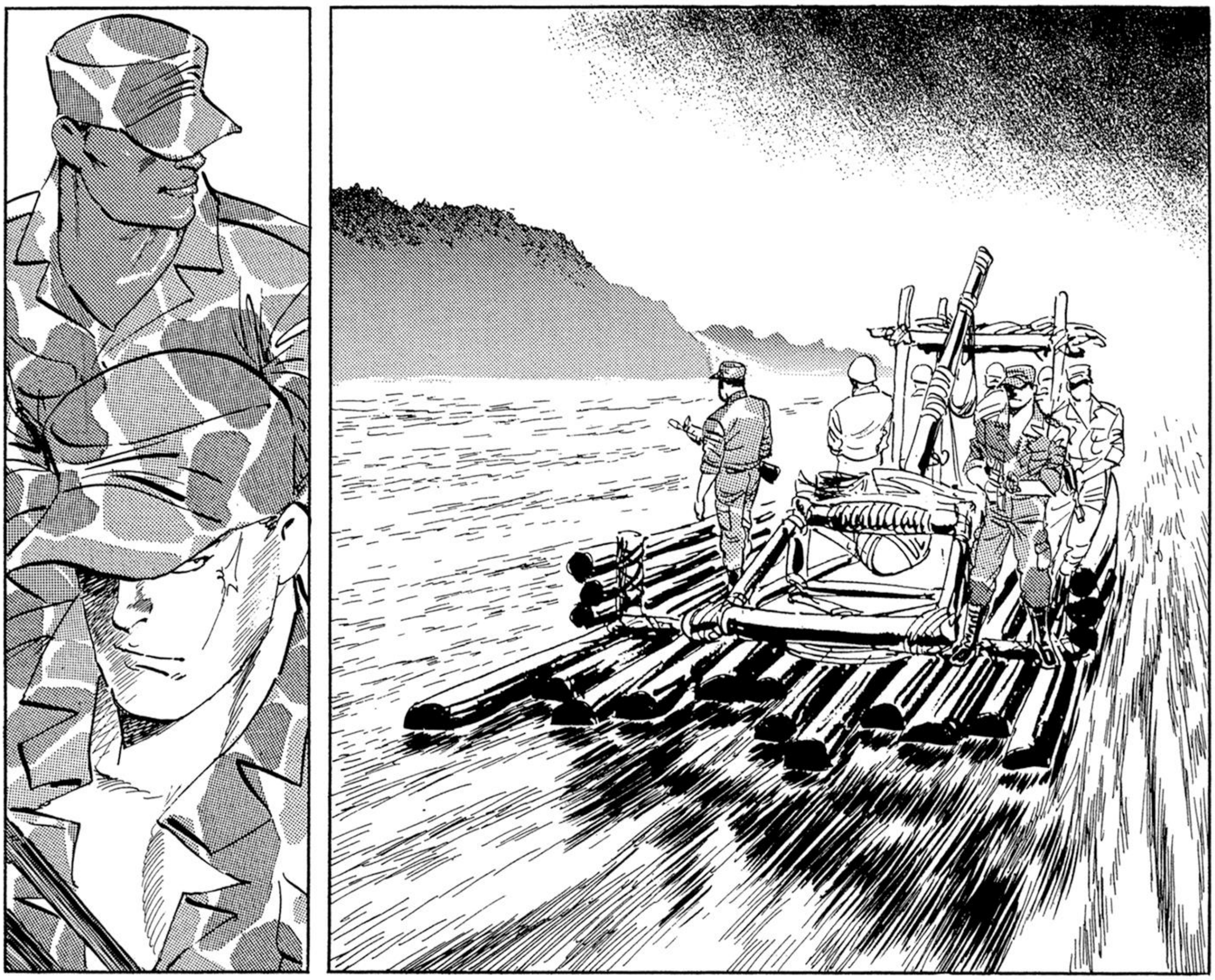
SACRIFICING ONE TO SAVE THE MANY IS JUST A CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO HIM.

THAT MAN ONLY WANTED TO ENSURE AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE NEED TO SURVIVE.

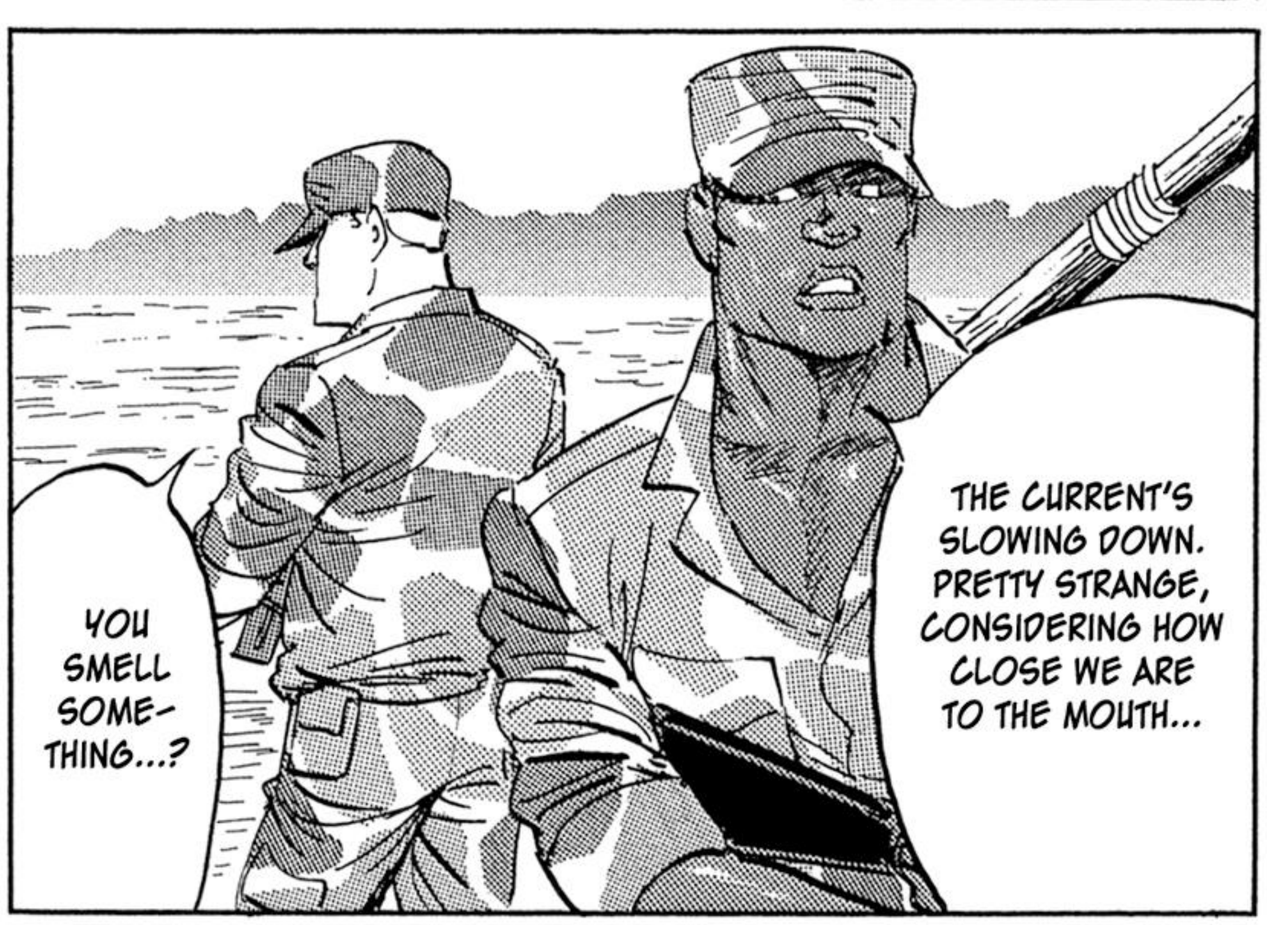
WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT ONE DAY... AND ONE OF US WILL ATONE FOR OUR SINS WITH OUR LIVES!

JEAN!

I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LET MARGIE DIE, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, I'M JUST LIKE HIM...



HUH?
ク…ク…
THAT'S...


YOU SMELL SOME-THING...?
THE CURRENT'S SLOWING DOWN. PRETTY STRANGE, CONSIDERING HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO THE MOUTH...

THE STENCH OF DEATH!

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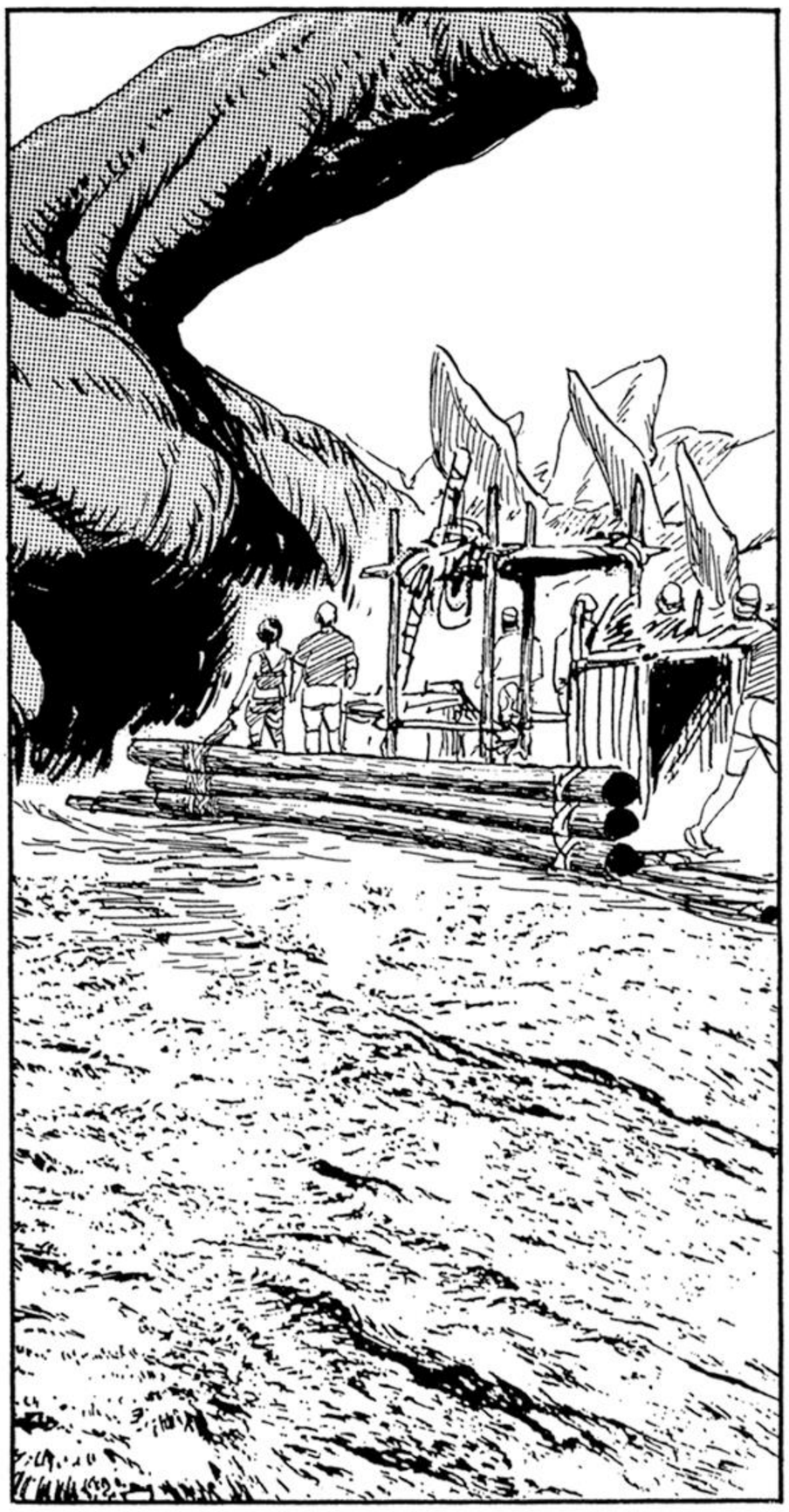
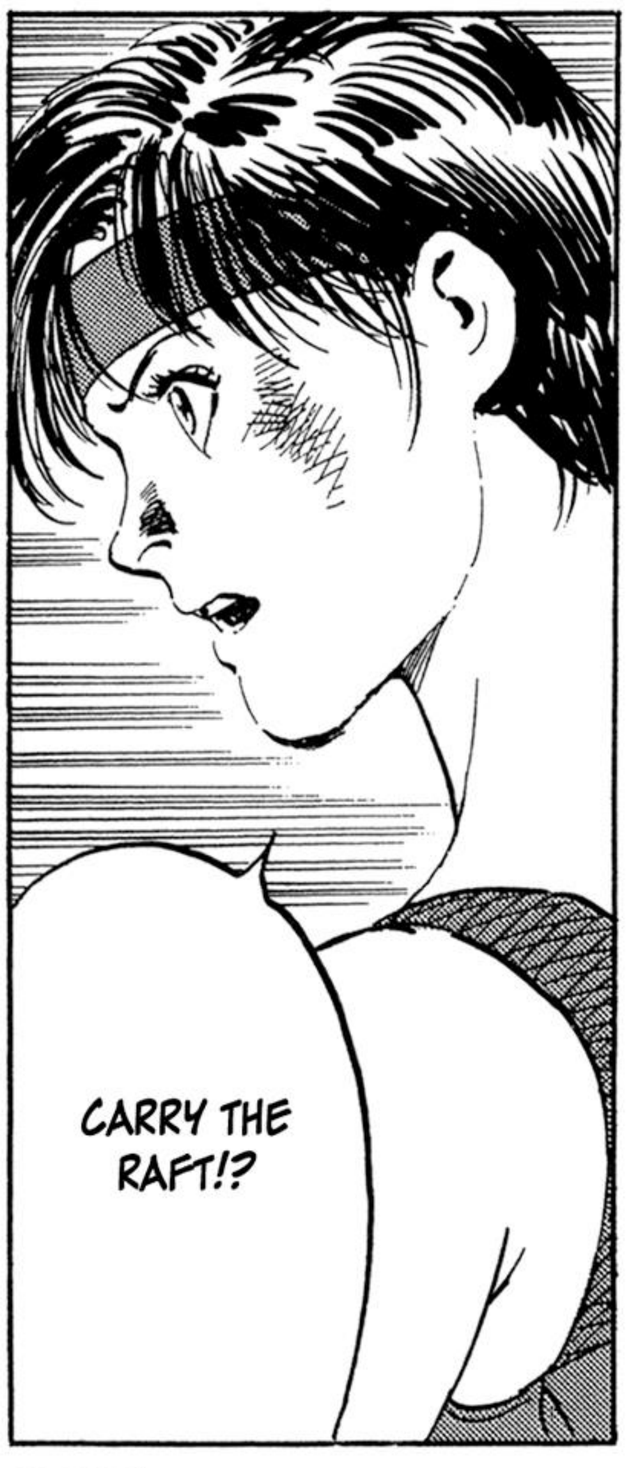
THESE ARE THE KINDS OF BODIES THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE FOSSILIZED. THEY'LL BE BURIED IN THE SAND, AND BECOME SEDIMENTARY ROCK.

THEY MUST'VE DROWNED IN THE FLOOD... AND GOT CARRIED HERE FROM UPSTREAM...

THAT'S SOME SMELL. THEY'VE STARTED ROTTING...




CARRY THE RAFT!?

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CARRY THE RAFT WITH SO FEW PEOPLE!

WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE? THERE AREN'T ANY BREAKS IN THIS DAM OF CARCASSES, AND THERE'S NOTHING BUT FLOODED JUNGLE ON THE BANKS. WE CAN'T WALK ACROSS THAT.

BUT IF WE CAN JUST MAKE IT OVER THIS DAM, WE CAN GET TO THE MOUTH!

I SAY WE WAIT. IF WE WAIT A DAY OR TWO, THE WATER MIGHT GO DOWN, OR THE BODIES MIGHT CLEAR...

Phew...

SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, THEN?

IF WE DO IT FORCEFULLY, WE WON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO KEEP WATCH... SO WE CAN'T FIGHT BACK IF WE GET ATTACKED!

WAIT AGAIN? WHAT IF THE RAINS COME BACK? I'M NOT GONNA GET CAUGHT BETWEEN THE FLOODS AND THESE CARCASSES, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

LET'S DO IT, LIEUTENANT. BETTER TO GIVE IT A TRY THAN TO ARGUE OVER IT.

HEAVE!

COME ON, GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT! HEAVE!

TCH! PESKY CROWS... I MEAN, PTERO-SAURS!

DON'T LET GO!

WAAUGH!

LOOK OUT!!

HUH!?

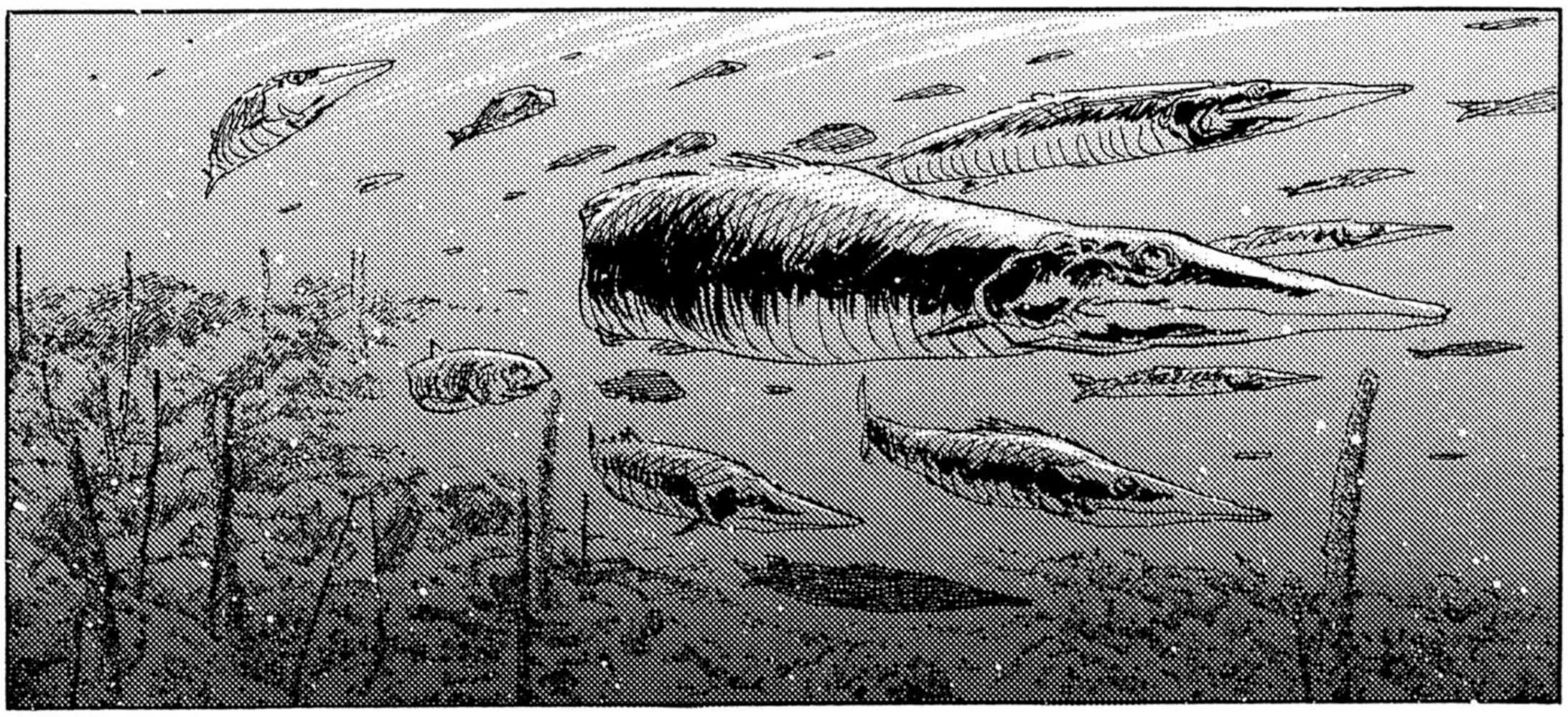
GGGGG

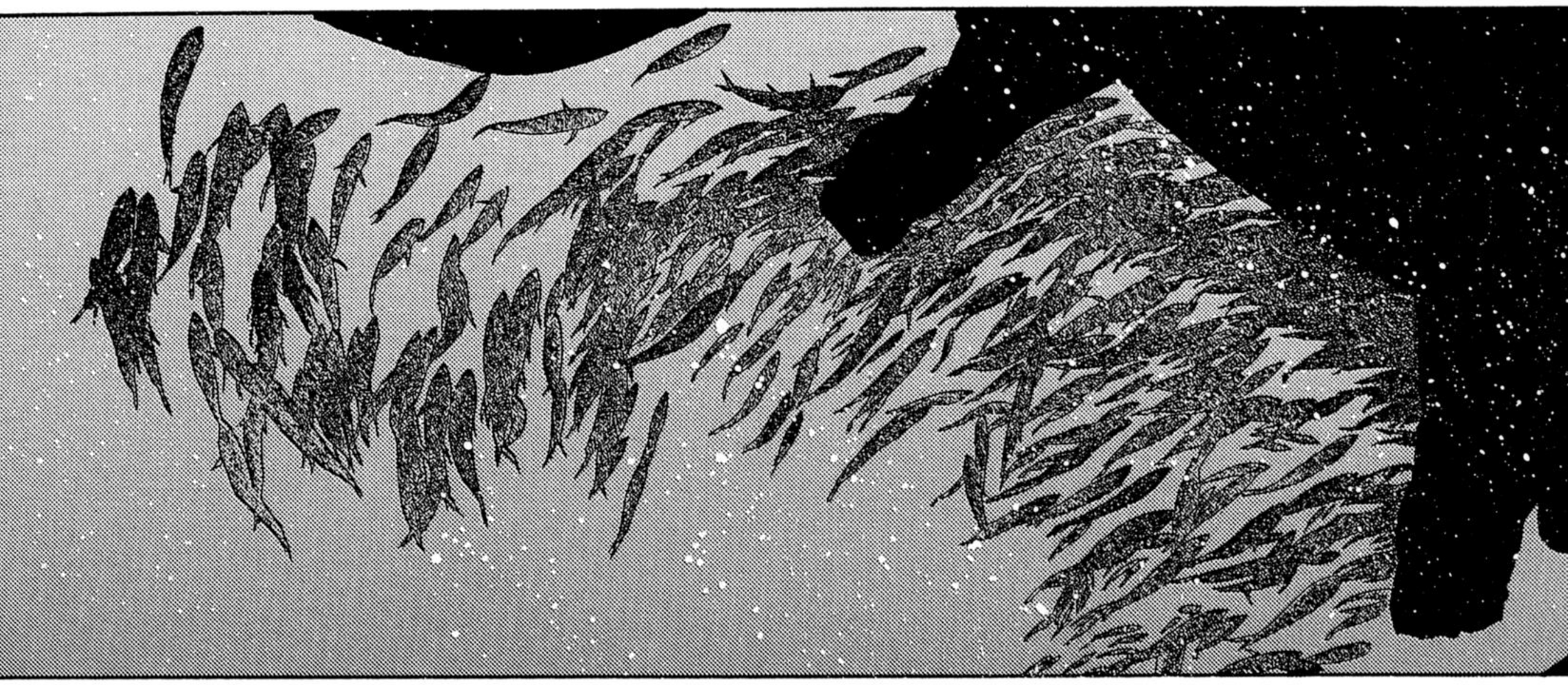
DON'T MOVE! IF YOU LET GO, THE RAFT'S GONNA CRUSH EVERYONE BENEATH IT!

KCH...

T-THAT LOOKS LIKE A SPECIES OF BARYONYX! IT'S A WATER-DWELLING DINOSAUR THAT SCAVENGES FOR FISH AND CARRION...!

IT'S GOT PLENTY OF FOOD! IT SHOULDN'T NOTICE US! HURRY, WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!





W... WAAAH! NOW THERE ARE CARNIVOROUS FISH FLOCKING AROUND THE CARCASSES!

!

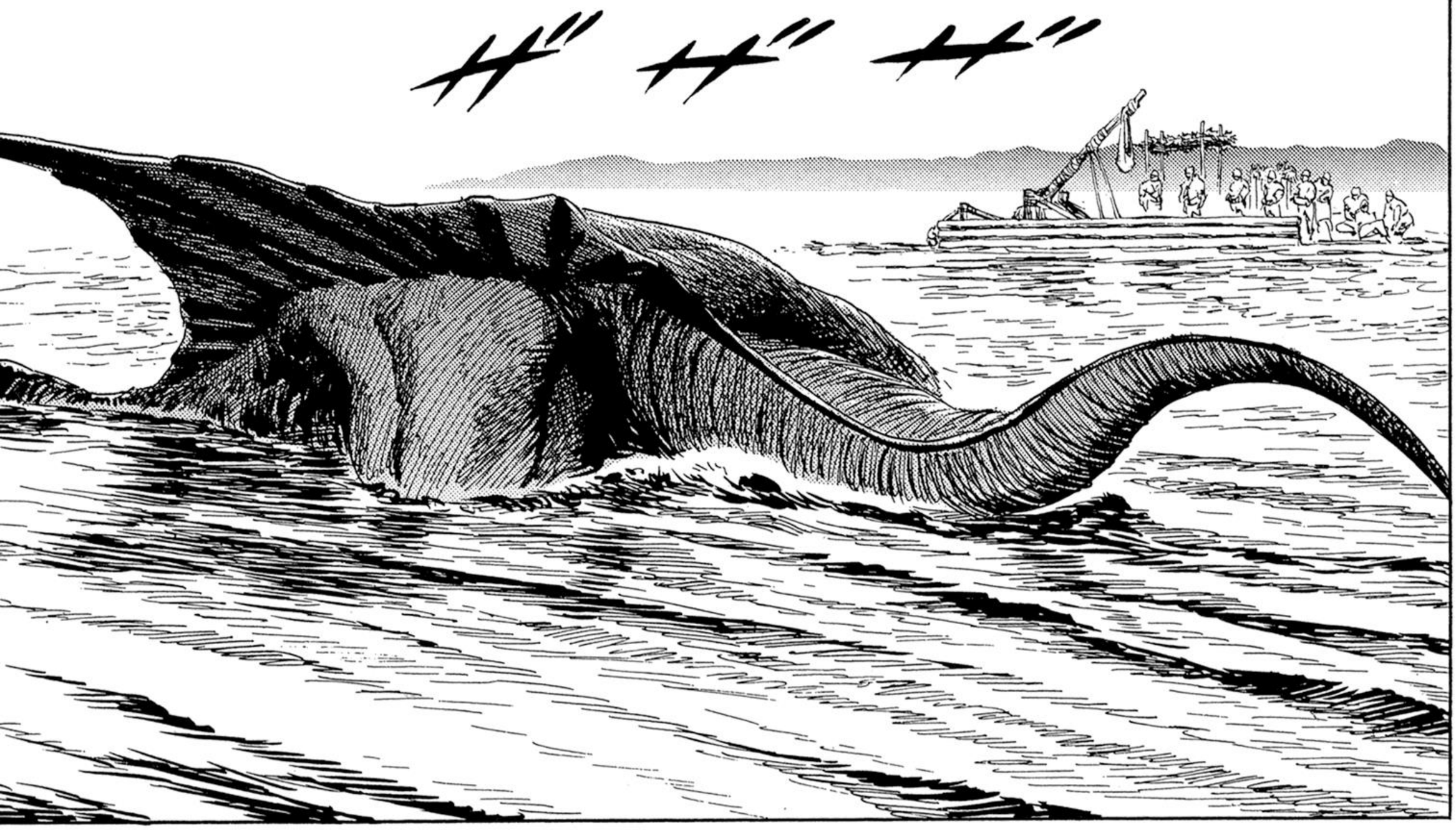
WAAAAA AAUGH!

S... SHIT!

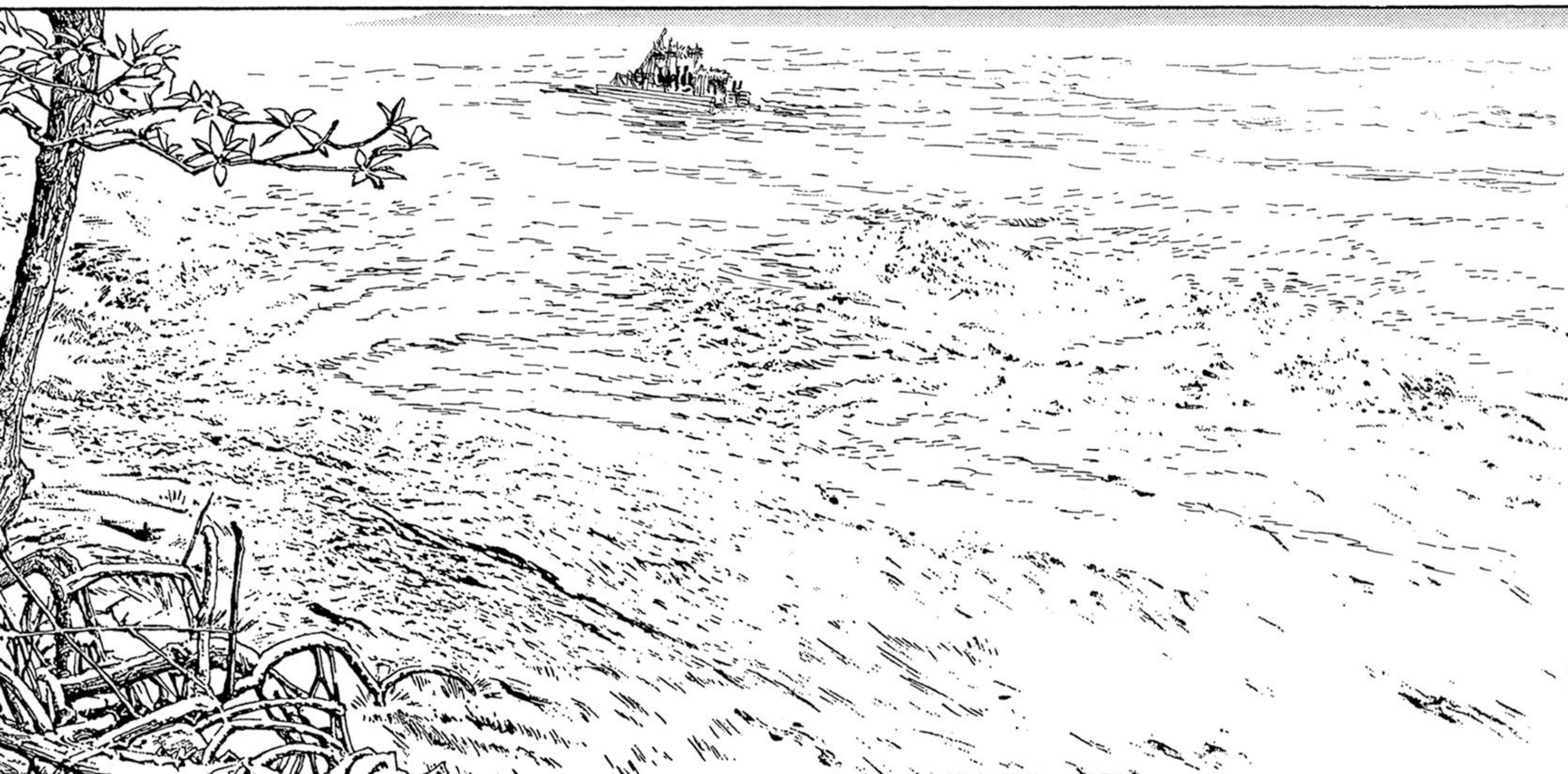
!
ガ!!

JEAN!!

JEAN!!



WE'VE LOST TWO MEN... IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR DECISION'S COST US DEARLY TODAY, LIEUTENANT GROCK.

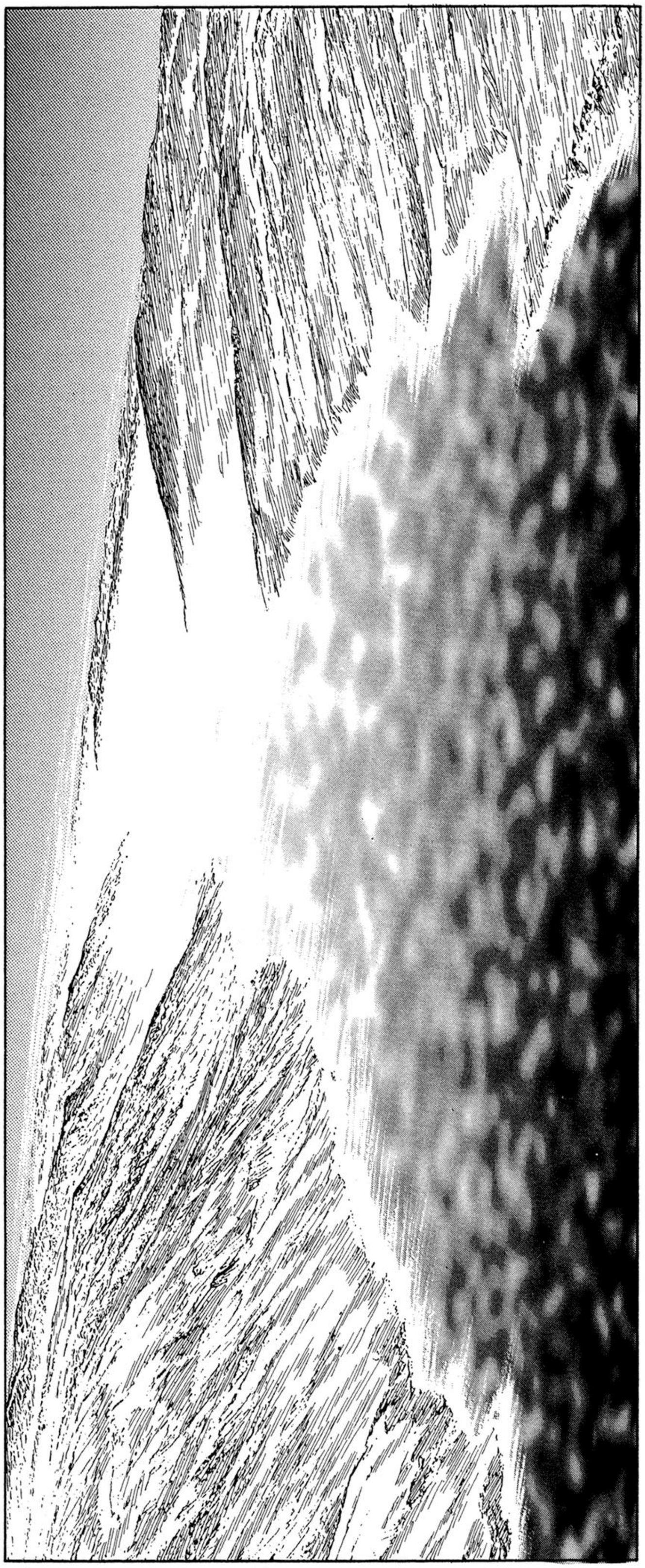


THAT MIGHT MEAN THAT THERE'S SOME KIND OF DUST IN THE AIR, OVER BY THE HORIZON. IT CAN'T BE SMOG, IN THIS TIME PERIOD...

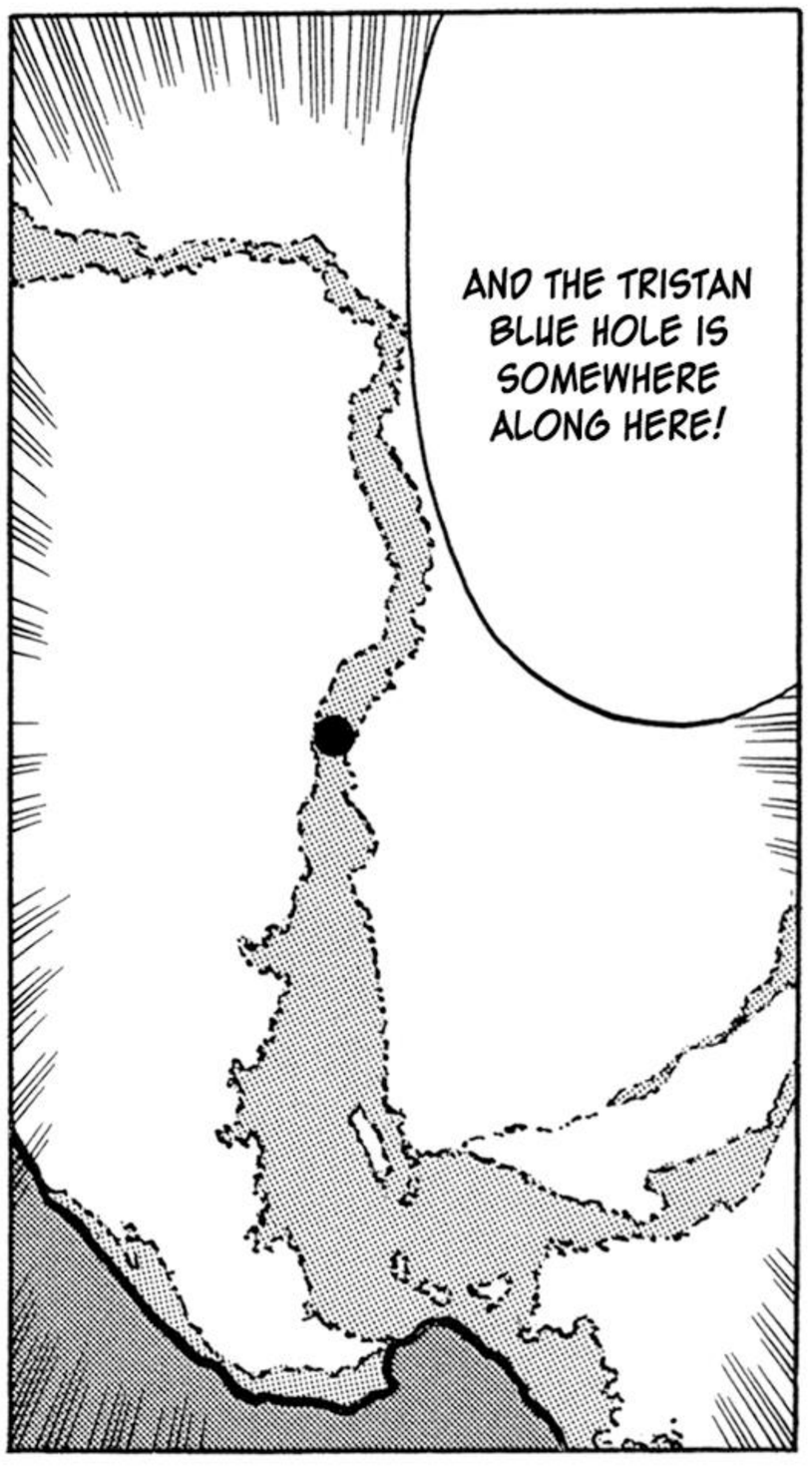
HMM...

THAT SUNSET PROVES THAT WE'RE HEADING WEST, BUT IT'S BLOOD-RED, AS IF IT'S MOURNING THOSE WE LOST ALONG THE WAY...

IT'S THE MOUTH... WE'VE REACHED THE AFRICAN WEST COAST...!



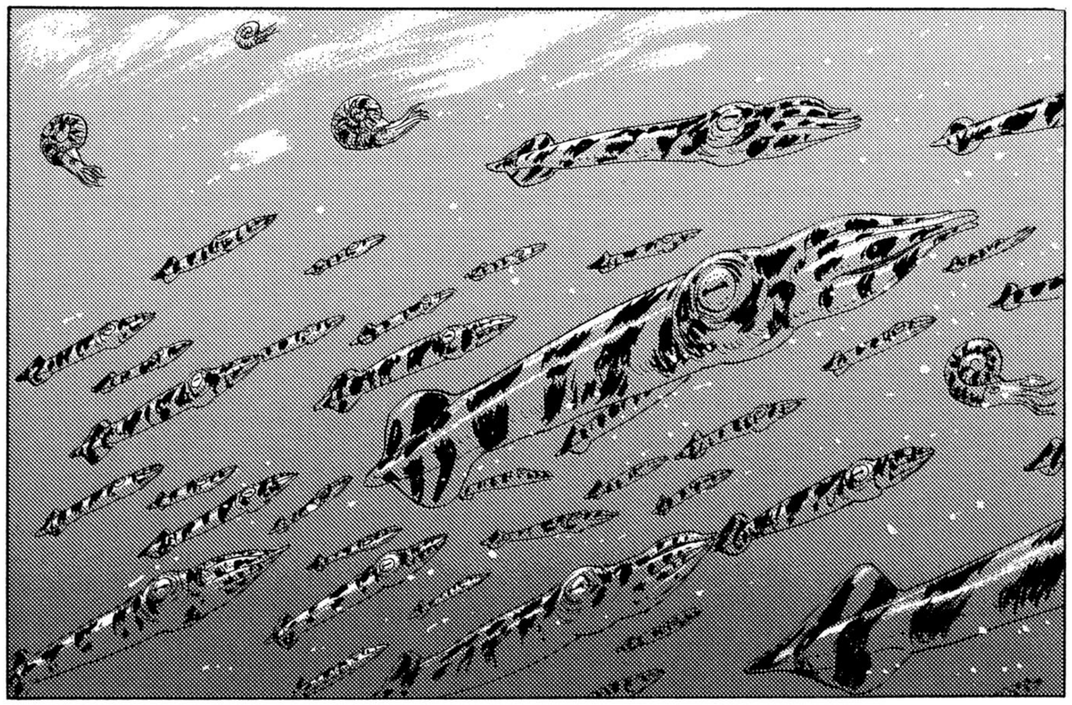
WE'RE FINALLY IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN!
MORE ACCURATELY, WE'RE IN THE GAP BETWEEN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.


AND THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE IS SOMEWHERE ALONG HERE!

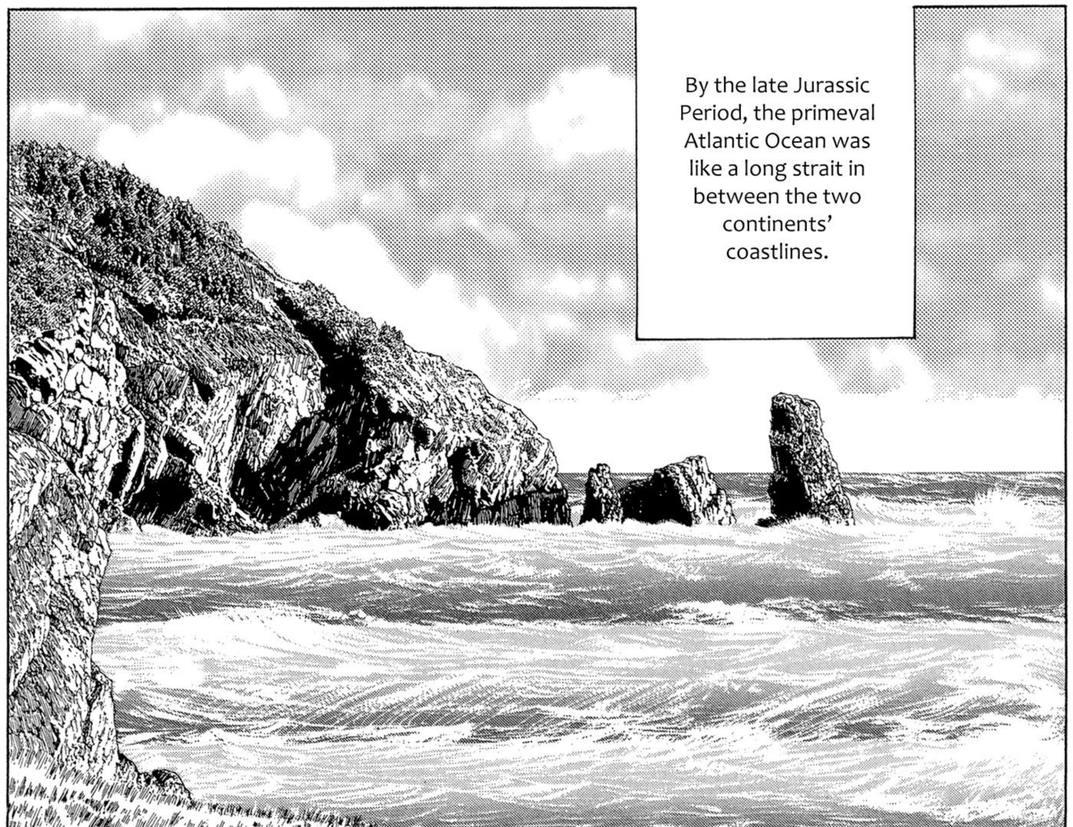
# Chapter 18
# The Hot Spot

Even today, the continents of Africa and South America are drifting apart at a rate of about 3cm per year.

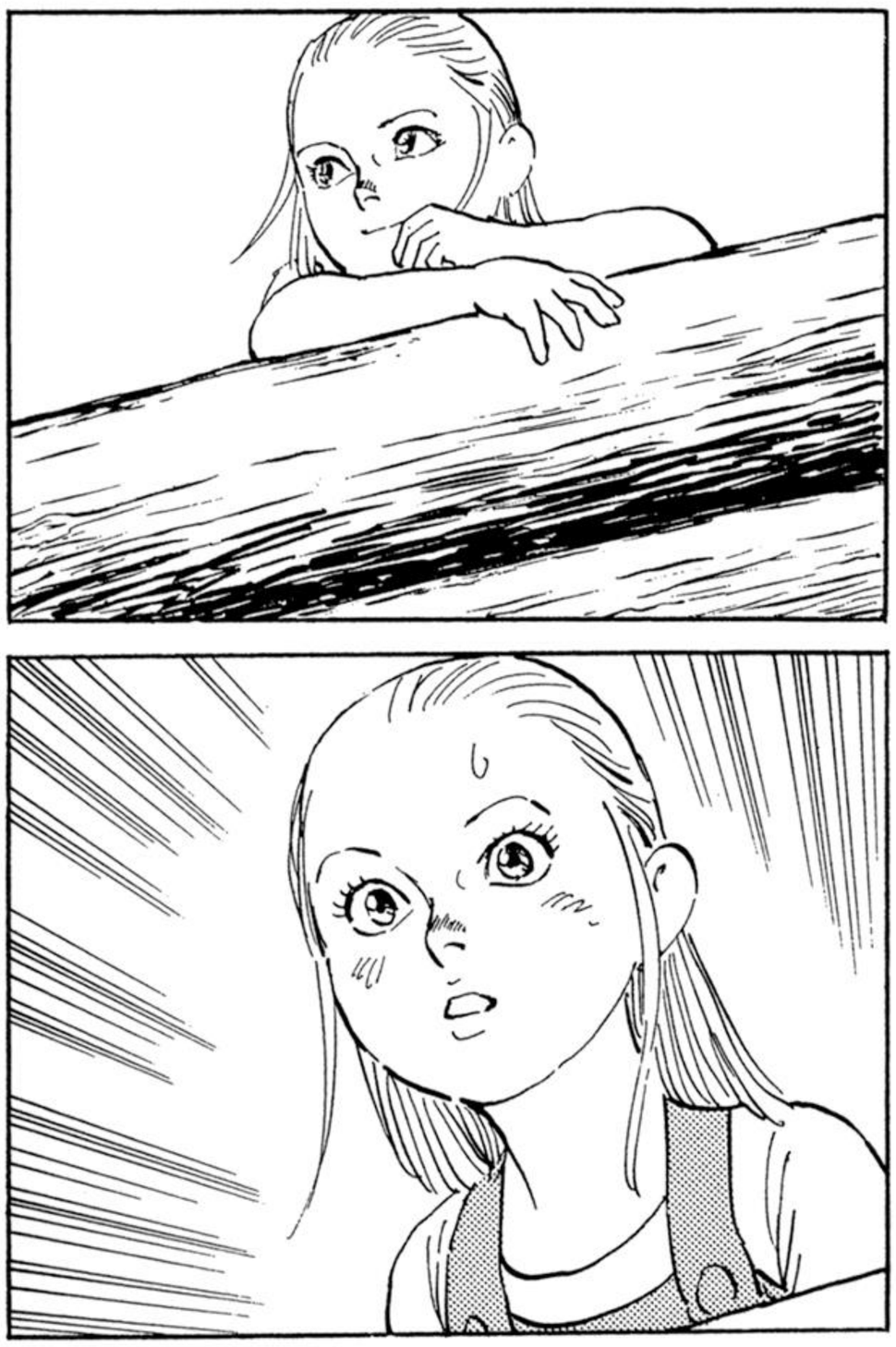
These two continents were once connected, until the mid-Jurassic Period, about 200 million years ago, when began to separate, and a thin sea formed in between them.

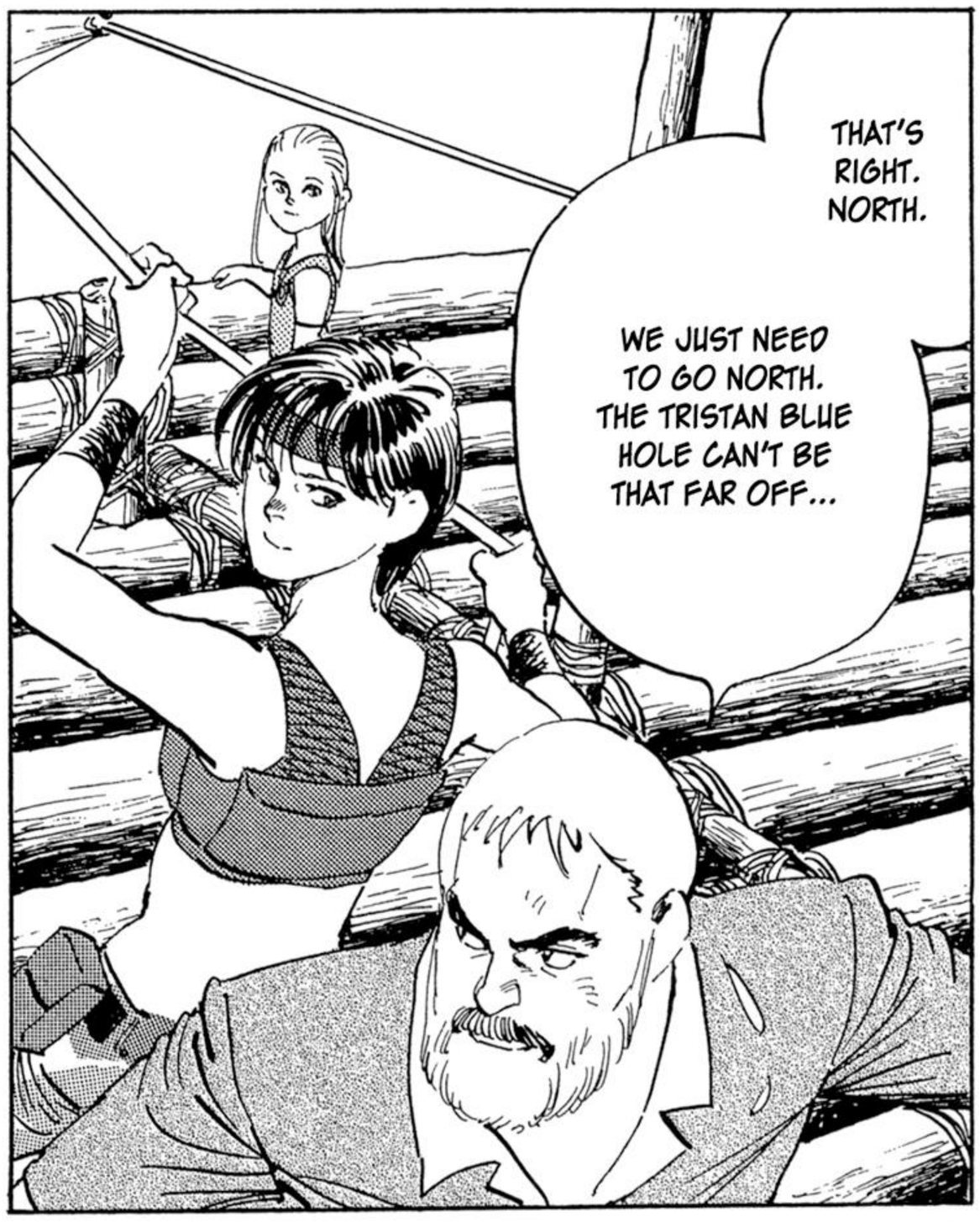


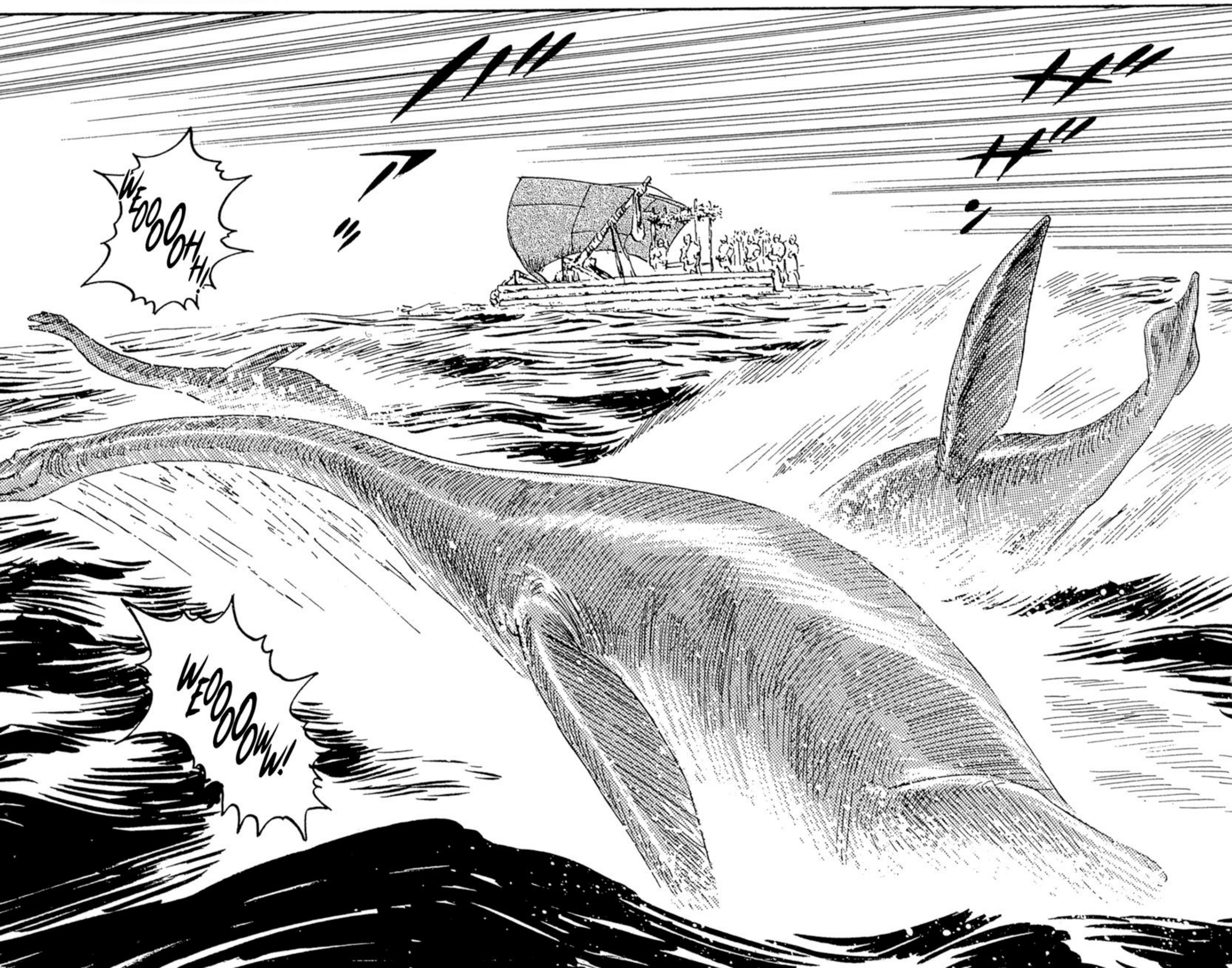




...THAT SHOULD MAKE IT A BIT MORE SEAWORTHY. THE MAST ISN'T THE MOST STABLE, BUT AT LEAST THE CURRENT'S GOING NORTH.




THAT'S RIGHT. NORTH.
WE JUST NEED TO GO NORTH. THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE CAN'T BE THAT FAR OFF...


WEOOOOHH!!
WEOOOOWW!

SHOULD WE CATCH SOME OF THOSE SQUIDS? I BET WE COULD EAT THEM, TOO!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BREAKFAST TIME FOR THOSE PLESIOSAURS. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WANT TO ATTACK US.

T... THAT'S A PLIOSAURUS! THE BIGGEST MARINE REPTILE OF THE JURASSIC PERIOD...!

IT'S WOLFING DOWN THAT PLESIOSAUR!!

KKK

KKK

IT MUST WANT SOME DESSERT AFTER ITS SEAFOOD!!

I... IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!!

KKKK

ALIEN
W...
WAAAA
AAUGH!

JEAN!

HOLD ON TIGHT! DON'T LET GO!

W...
WHY DID IT JUST TURN AROUND!?

...!

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...

W... WHAT THE...!?

THERE'S SOMETHING COARSE LIKE SAND COVERING THE RAFT...

PROFES-SOR?

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE FINE PARTICLES IN THE AIR, WHICH ARE FALLING GRADUALLY...

VOLCANIC ASH!?

THIS IS PROBABLY THE REASON THE SUNSET LOOKED SO RED LAST NIGHT.

IT'S VOLCANIC ASH...

ゴゴゴゴ

LOOKS LIKE A REEF OF LAVA. WHAT DO WE DO NOW, PROFESSOR?

THIS MAY BE DANGEROUS, BUT LET'S FOLLOW THIS REEF TO THE HOT SPOT ON THE SHORE...!

IS THAT WHERE THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE IS?

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES!

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スルース II

THE BLUE HOLE REMAINS FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, EVEN AFTER THE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY HAS CEASED. THE LOCH NESS BLUE HOLE AND THE KAROO BLUE HOLE DON'T EVEN HAVE A TRACE OF THEIR ERUPTION.

ACCORDING TO MY HYPOTHESIS, BLUE HOLES ARE GENERATED FROM THE ERUPTION OF SUPER PLUMES, MASSIVE MAGMA BUBBLES WHICH RISE FROM THE EARTH'S CORE.

THIS WILL BE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE EXPANSION OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED MILLION YEARS OR MORE!

THE SUPER PLUME HERE IS ERUPTING AS WE SPEAK!

BUT NOT HERE!

WHEN THE MASS OF MAGMA BIG ENOUGH TO COVER A CONTINENT STARTS ERUPTING THROUGH A CRACK IN THE EARTH'S CRUST, THE HEAT ENERGY WILL MOVE THE PLATES, AND DRIVE AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA APART!

THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE IS MOST LIKELY IN THE HOT SPOT OF THAT VOLCANIC ACTIVITY!

AS MUCH AS I HOPE IT'S NOT SO...

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THE LAVA REEF HASN'T SPREAD ON THIS SIDE. WHY DON'T WE GO AROUND AND TAKE A LOOK?

THE SEAWATER'S BOILING! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET ANY CLOSER!

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO BE RESCUED WHEN WE GOT HERE!

WHERE'S THE BLUE HOLE!?

ゴゴゴゴ

YEEOWCH! THE HOT WATER'S CARRYING US AWAY!

ゴゴゴゴ

FIRST, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WHETHER OR NOT THEY SENT RESCUE FROM THE MODERN WORLD HERE...

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

WHAT DO WE DO, PROFESSOR? SHOULD WE GO TO THE OTHER BLUE HOLE...?

AND WHAT IF THEY SEND RESCUE TO THE AZORES BLUE HOLE?

IF WE WASTE A WHOLE WEEK HERE, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!

DON'T FORGET, WE STILL HAVE A WEEK.

FORTUNATELY, WE'RE STILL CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHORE. WE CAN JUST WAIT ON THE COAST FOR THE DAY TO COME.

IF WE'RE ATTACKED BY A DINOSAUR, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM WITH HALF OUR NUMBERS.

THAT'LL BE FAR TOO DANGEROUS.

WHAT IF WE SPLIT UP, AND SOME OF US GO TO THE OTHER BLUE HOLE?

SHE'S RIGHT. WE HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER...!

VOLCANIC PROJECTILES! THE VOLCANO'S BECOMING ACTIVE!!

WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE! GET TO SHORE!!

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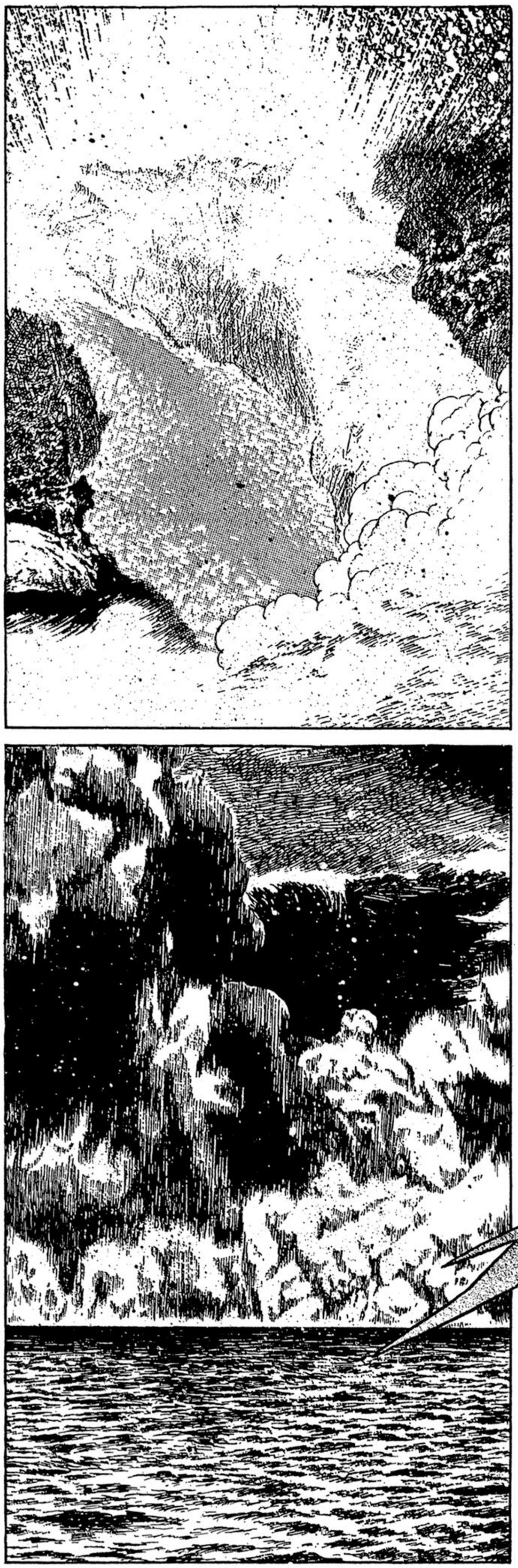
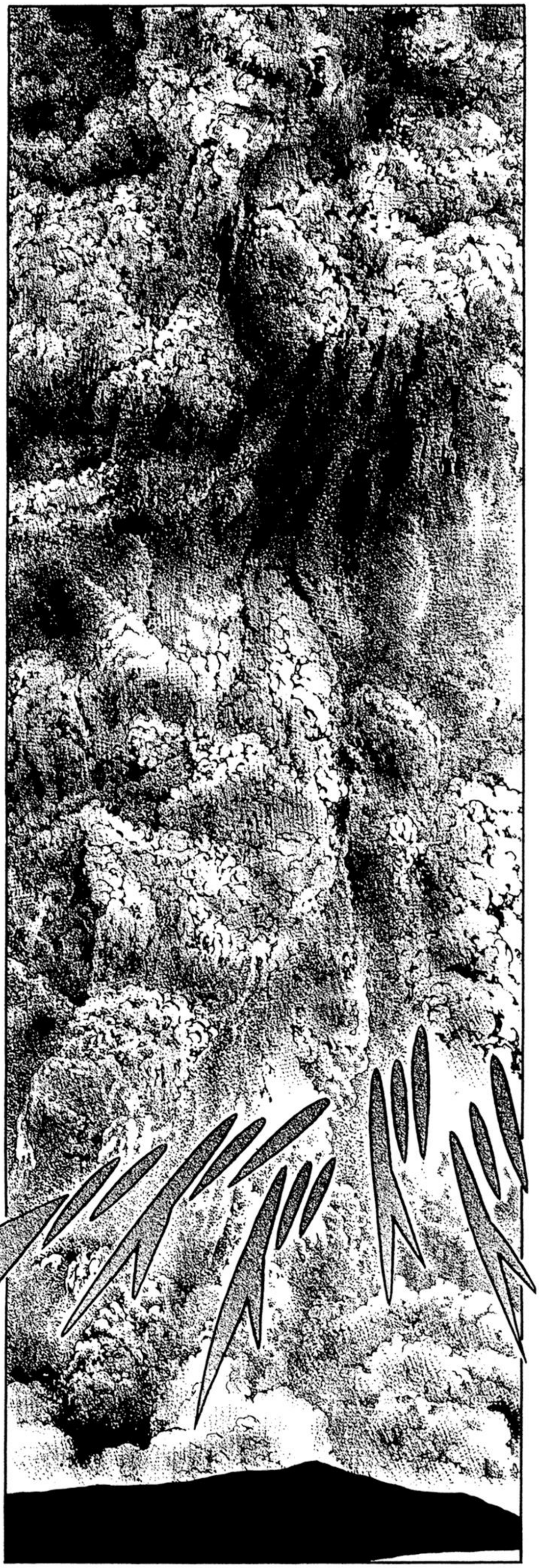
LOOK...

F... FIND COVER!

!

IS THAT...!?





Chapter 19

# The Extermination

THIS WAY, PROFESSOR! HURRY!!

THERE ARE PARTS THAT WERE CRUSHED AND MELTED BY THE WATER PRESSURE OR LAVA PRESSURE... IT'S A MIRACLE IT'S STILL INTACT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SUCKED INTO THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE FROM SOME OCEAN IN THE MODERN WORLD!

THIS SHIP'S SO RUSTED, I CAN'T TELL ITS NAME OR NATIONALITY! IT MUST BE FROM DECADES AGO!

DECADES ...!?

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY FROM BERMUDA. THERE ARE OTHER BLUE HOLES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE OCEAN.

BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE ANY WAY OF TELLING WHERE IN THE MODERN WORLD IT'S LINKED TO.

IT'S GOT TO BE AMERICAN! HAVEN'T LOTS OF SHIPS GONE MISSING IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE!?

IT COULD'VE EVEN DRIFTED HERE THROUGH ANOTHER TIME PERIOD ENTIRELY.

THAT'D BE EVEN MORE OF A MIRACLE...

IT'S ALSO PROOF THAT WE MIGHT NOT MAKE THE TRIP ALIVE.

BUT NOW WE KNOW WE CAN GET BACK TO THE MODERN WORLD THROUGH THIS BLUE HOLE!

THIS SHIP IS PROOF OF THAT!

THE SUPERERUPTION OF A SUPER PLUME CAN GO ON FOR A MILLION YEARS, INTERMITTENTLY. THE TRISTAN BLUE HOLE IS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, SEALED OFF PERMANENTLY!

SHE'S RIGHT. EVEN IF A RESCUE SUBMARINE DID MAKE IT THROUGH THE BLUE HOLE, IT WOULD BE CAUGHT UP IN THE ERUPTION, AND DESTROYED BY MAGMA.

AND EVEN IF IT DID MAKE IT HERE, AND WE WERE ABLE TO BOARD IT, RE-ENTERING THE BLUE HOLE WOULD BE ANOTHER RISKY PROPOSITION.

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SO THAT MEANS OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO HEAD FOR THE AZORES BLUE HOLE...!

...

WE CAN'T WAIT HERE FOR A WHOLE WEEK, MARGIE.

THIS ERUPTION DIDN'T JUST START YESTERDAY.

...BUT THE ERUPTION COULD TEMPORARILY STOP A WEEK FROM NOW! IF THE SUBMARINE COMES THEN, WE MIGHT JUST BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO...

I THINK THAT THE RUINS OF THIS SHIP WERE COMPLETELY BURIED UNDER THE VOLCANIC ASH, BUT WERE WASHED OUT BY THE RAINS THE OTHER DAY. IT'LL BE BURIED UNDER THE ASH AGAIN, AND US ALONG WITH IT...

...

YOU THINK WE SHOULD HEAD INTO THE JUNGLE? WE CAN'T FIGHT ANY DINOSAURS WITH THE WEAPONS WE HAVE ON HAND.

THE AZORES BLUE HOLE IS TO THE NORTH.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD OR WATER, EITHER. WE LOST THEM WITH THE RAFT.

AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO GO NORTH ALONG THE COAST, WE'D HAVE NOWHERE TO TAKE SHELTER IN CASE OF ANOTHER ERUPTION.

LET'S FOLLOW THE BORDER OF THE JUNGLE TO THE NORTH. THEN ONCE WE'RE PAST THE POINT WHERE THE VOLCANO CAN AFFECT US, WE CAN HEAD BACK TO THE COAST.

THERE SHOULD BE FEWER DINOSAURS HERE IN THIS WASTELAND OF VOLCANIC ASH. BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSE TO THE JUNGLE TO SECURE FOOD AND WATER...

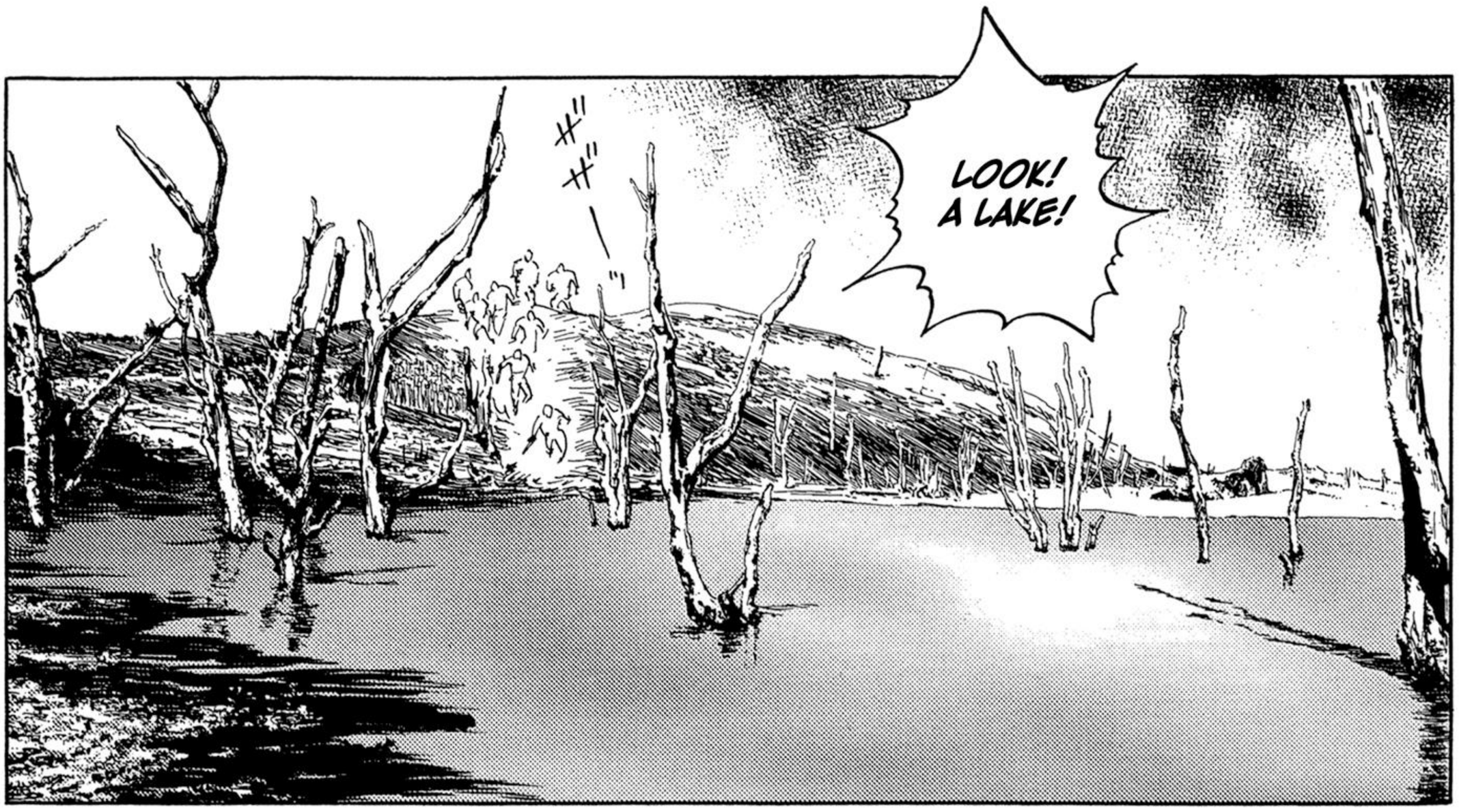
HMM... I GUESS THAT'S OUR ONLY CHOICE. THOUGH WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THIS VOLCANIC ASH WILL GO ON FOR...?

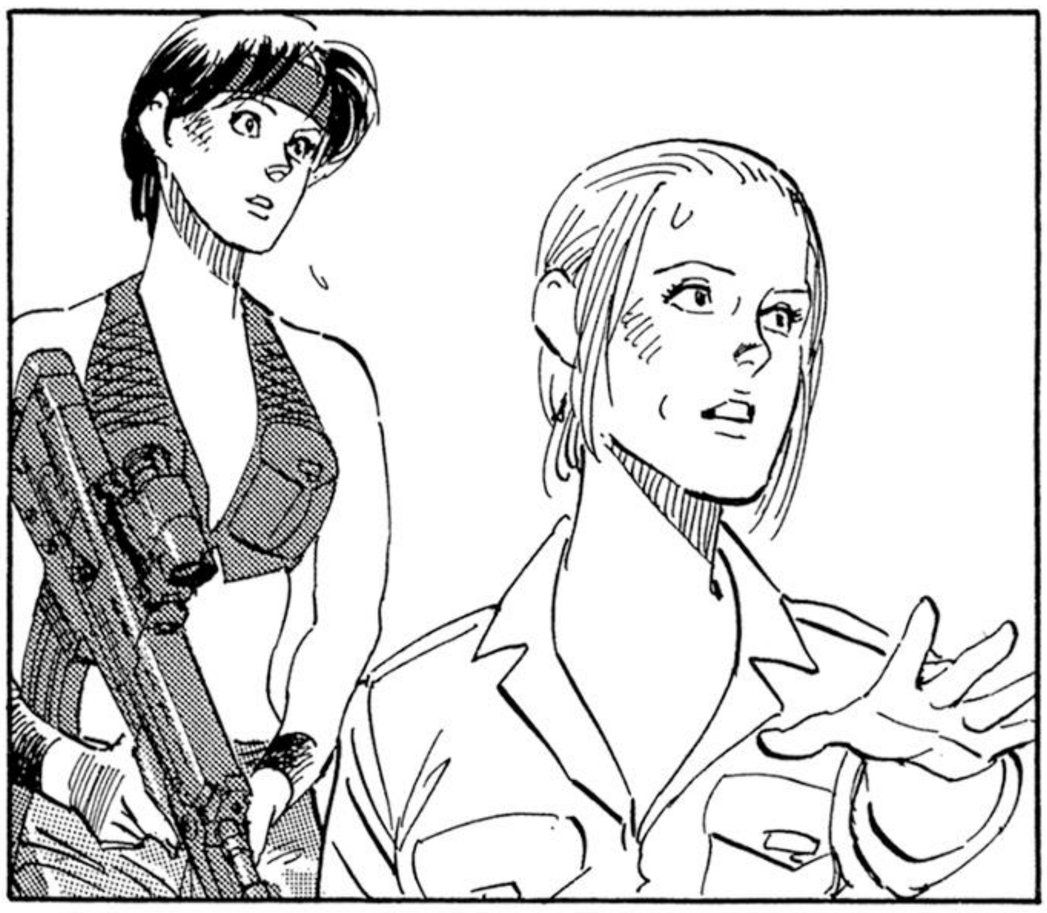
...

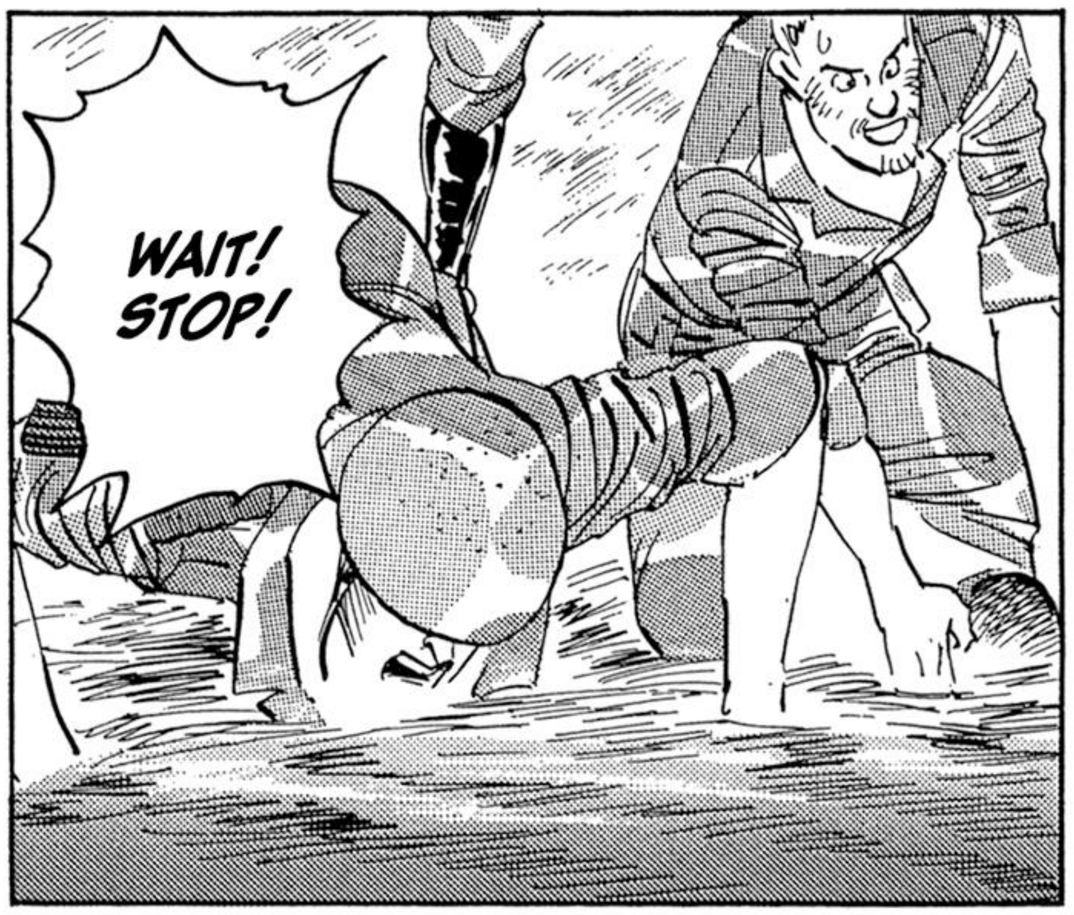
WE'D BETTER GO NOW, MARGIE, WHILE THE VOLCANIC PROJECTILES ARE STILL IN A LULL!

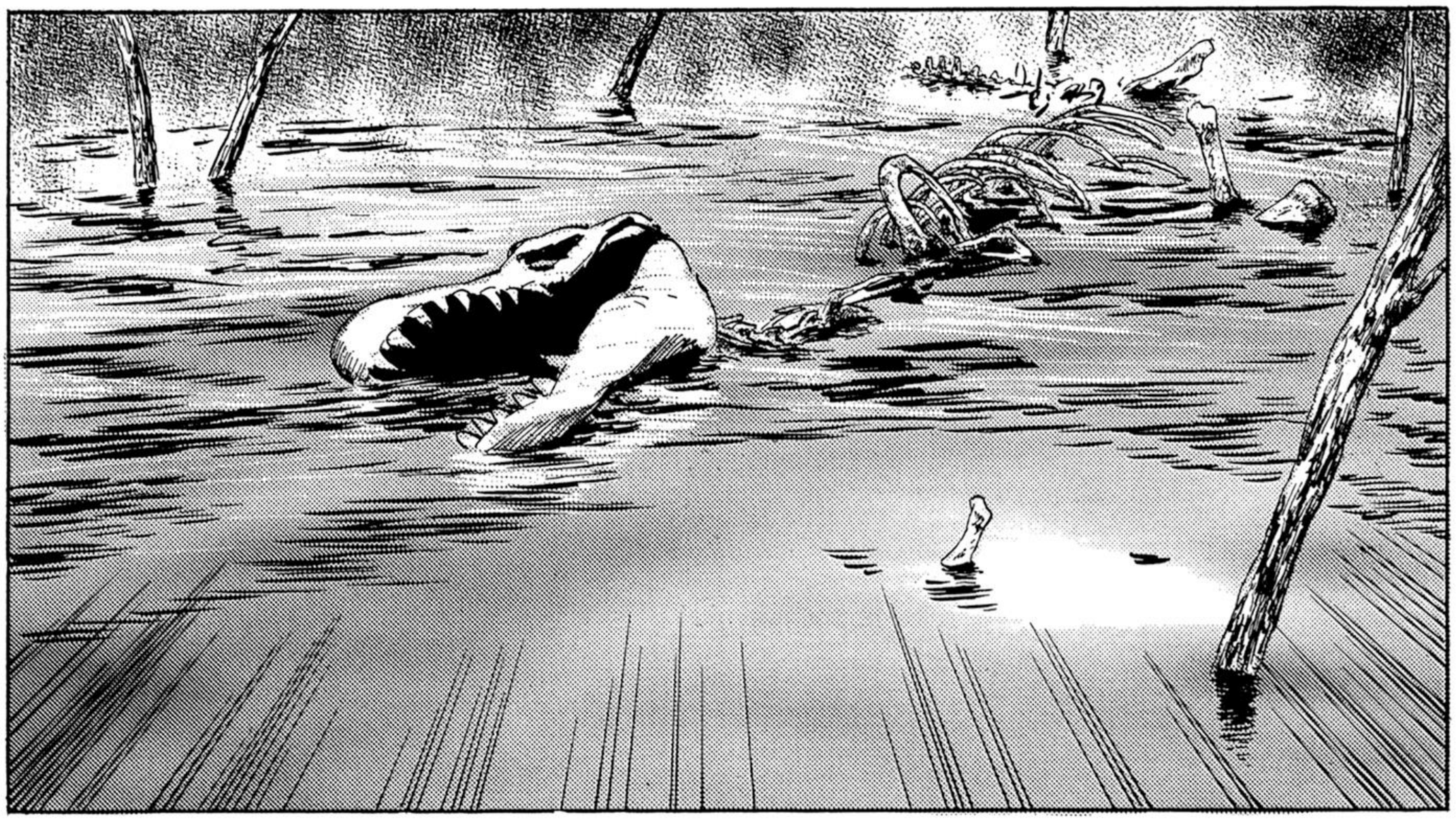
THE SMOKE'S BEING BLOWN HERE BY HIGH-ALTITUDE WINDS. LOOKS LIKE THE ASH'S REACHES ARE LONGER THAN WE IMAGINED.

IT FEELS LIKE A DESERT...


LOOK!
A LAKE!




WAIT!
STOP!



VOLCANIC EJECTA CONTAIN HIGH DOSES OF NITROGEN OXIDE. WATER THAT'S POLLUTED WITH IT BY ASH OR RAINFALL COULD BE LETHAL.

I CAN'T ANALYZE IT, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO DRINK THE WATER HERE.

...

NO DINOSAUR COULD LIVE HERE, WITH POLLUTED WATER AND SHRIVELED-UP PLANTS... THE EJECTA FROM THE SUPER PLUME IS CHANGING THIS WHOLE AREA INTO A LAND OF DEATH...

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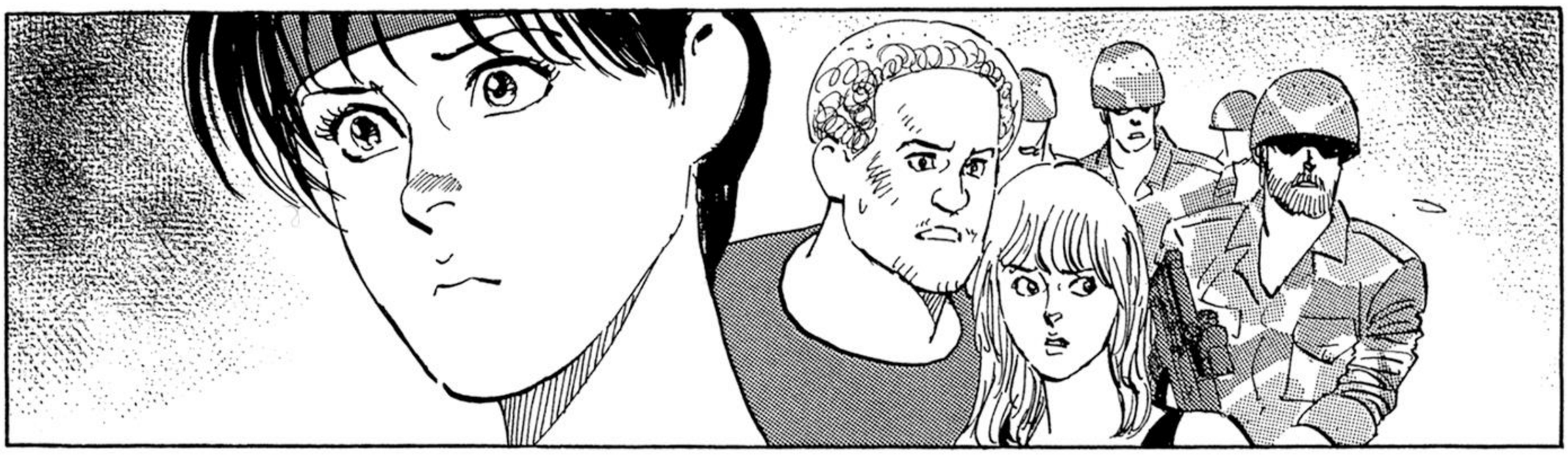
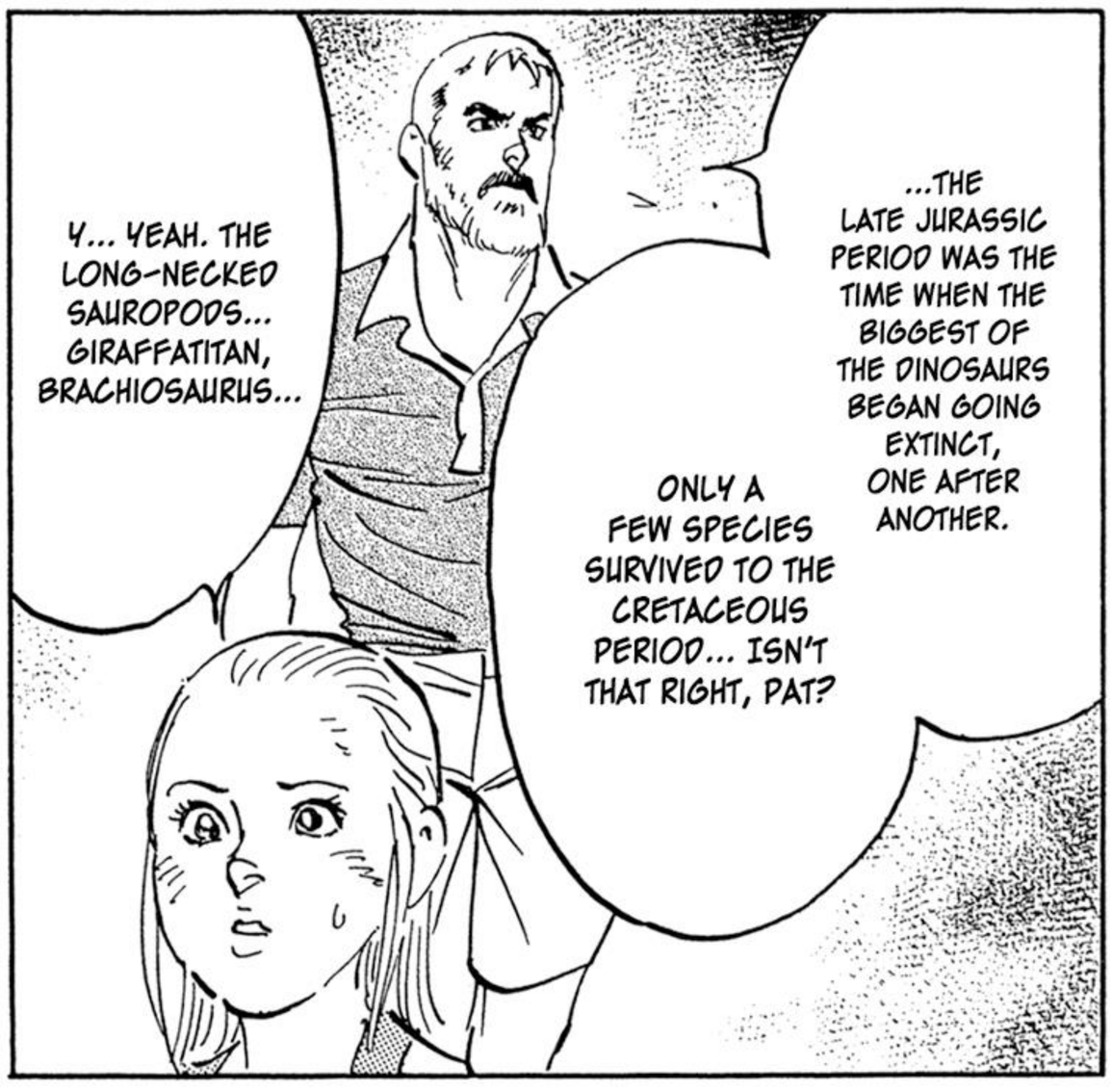
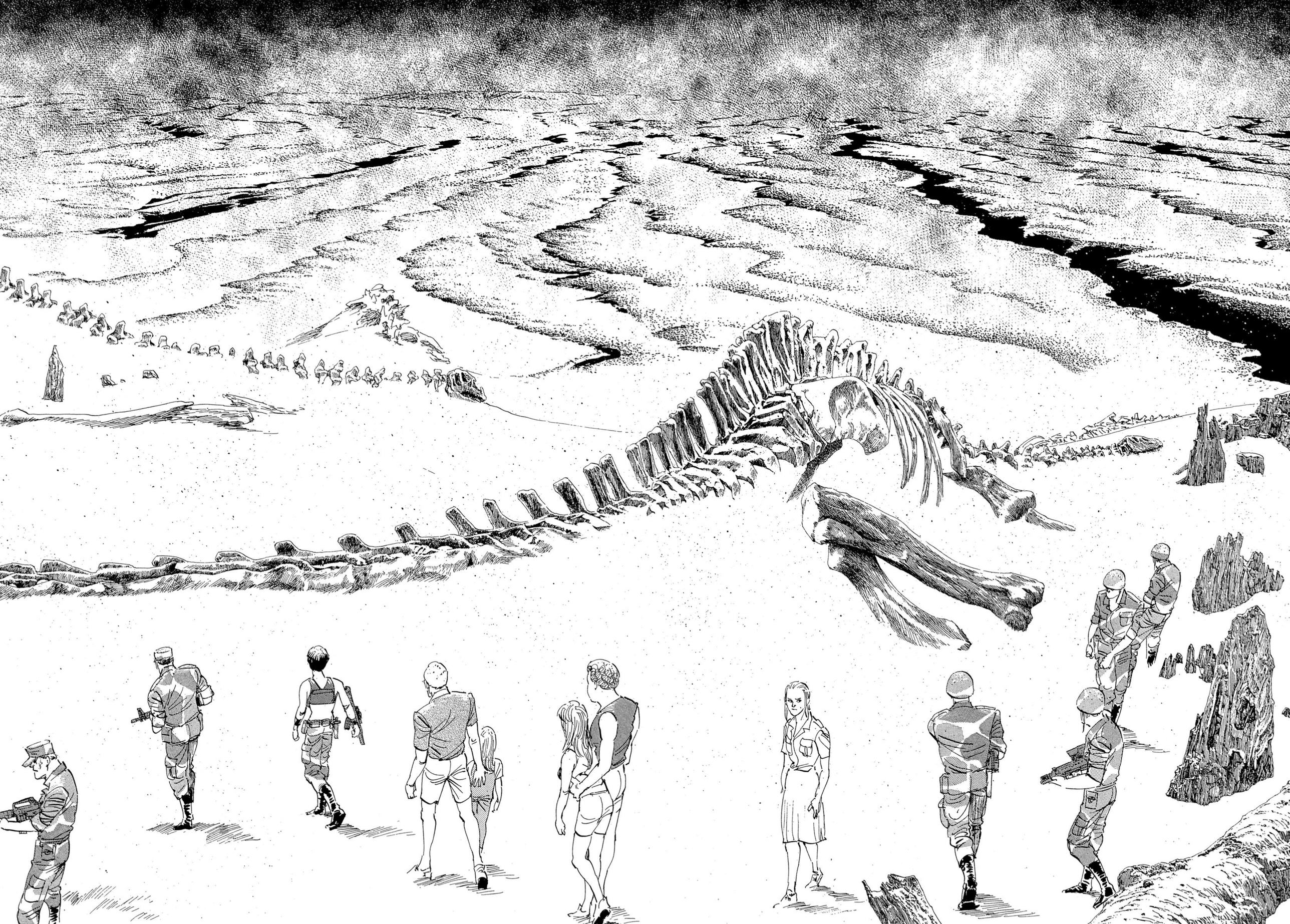


MY THEORY WAS THAT THE SUPER PLUME CAUSED A MASS EXTINCTION EVENT. THIS COULD VERY WELL BE GROUND ZERO FOR AN EXTINCTION THAT WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...!


Y... YEAH. THE LONG-NECKED SAUROPODS... GIRAFFATITAN, BRACHIOSAURUS...
...THE LATE JURASSIC PERIOD WAS THE TIME WHEN THE BIGGEST OF THE DINOSAURS BEGAN GOING EXTINCT, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
ONLY A FEW SPECIES SURVIVED TO THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PAT?



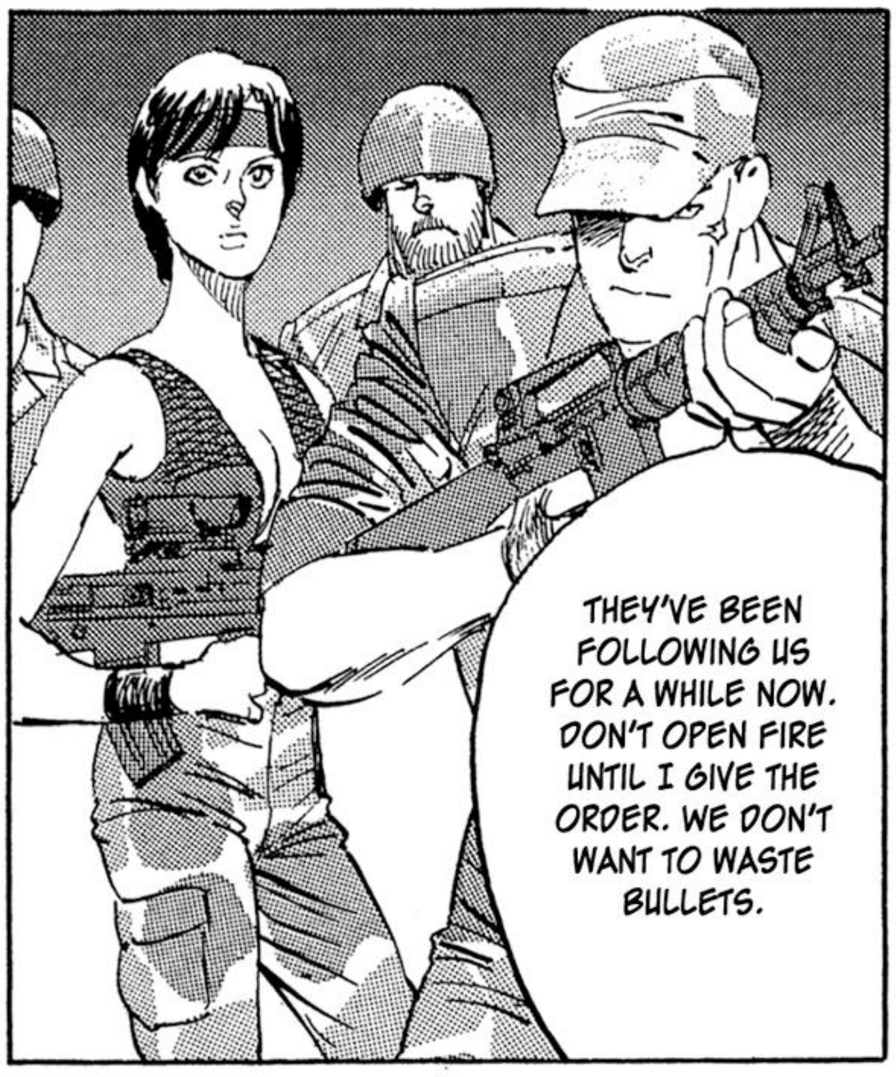
...

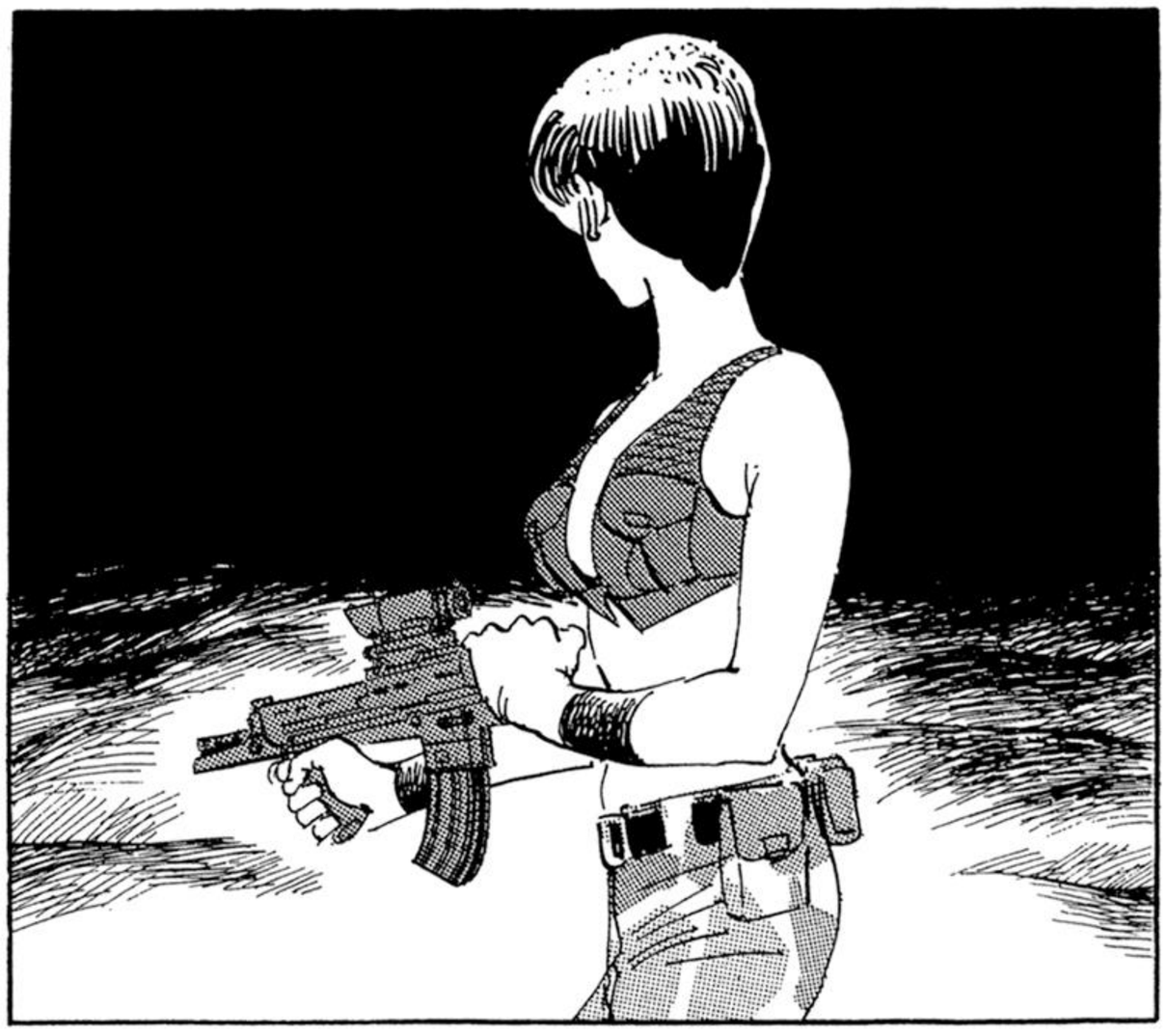
PERHAPS ULTRAVIOLET RAYS PLAYED A PART, AS WELL. ONLY THE SPECIES THAT COULDN'T ADAPT TO A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT DIED OUT...

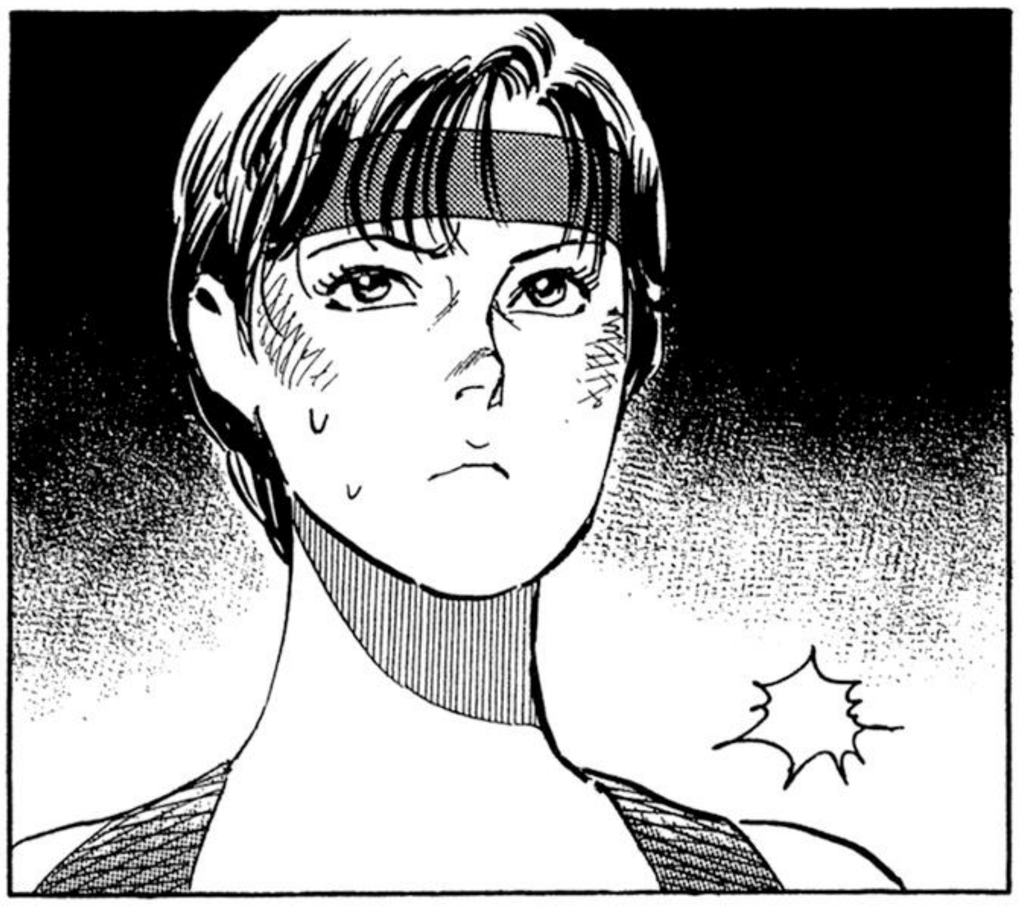
SHHHHH!

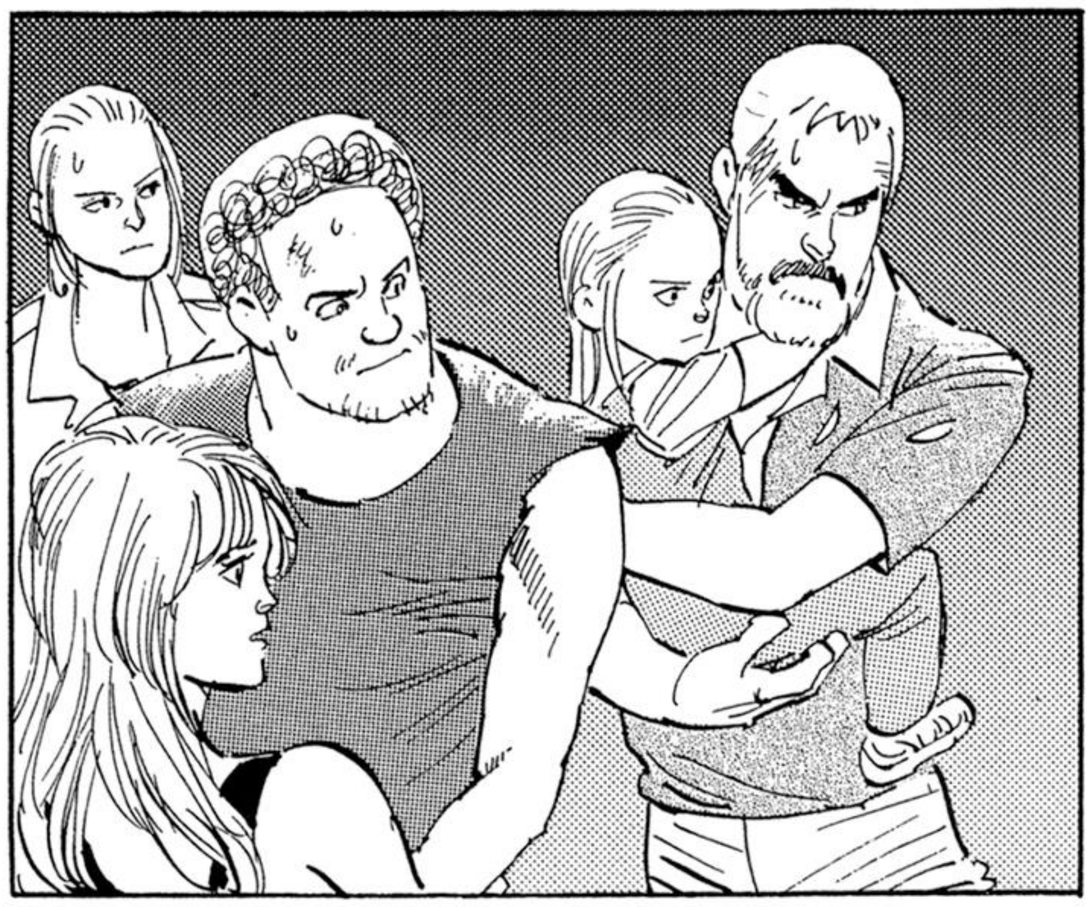
Y... YOU MEAN THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONNA BE LIKE THIS?

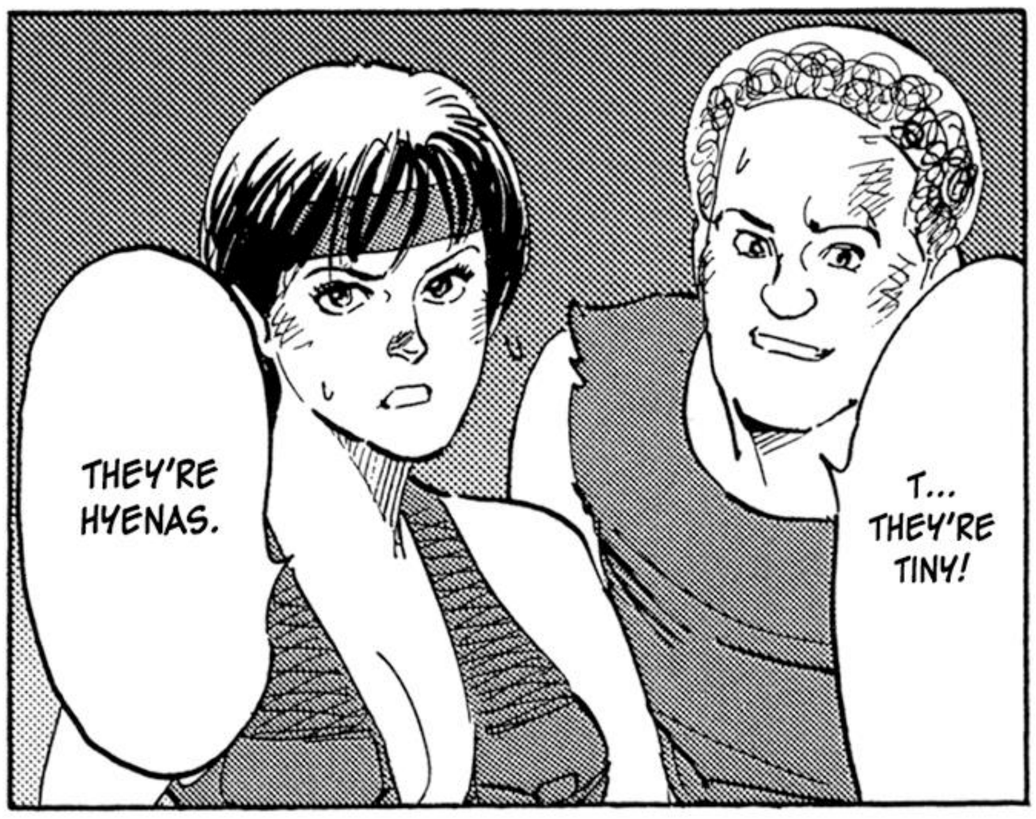
NO. UNLIKE THE MASS EXTINCTION EVENT OF THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD, NOT ALL THE DINOSAURS DIED OUT. THERE WOULD'VE BEEN SOME REGIONAL DIFFERENCES.


THEY'VE BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR A WHILE NOW. DON'T OPEN FIRE UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER. WE DON'T WANT TO WASTE BULLETS.








THEY'RE HYENAS.
T... THEY'RE TINY!

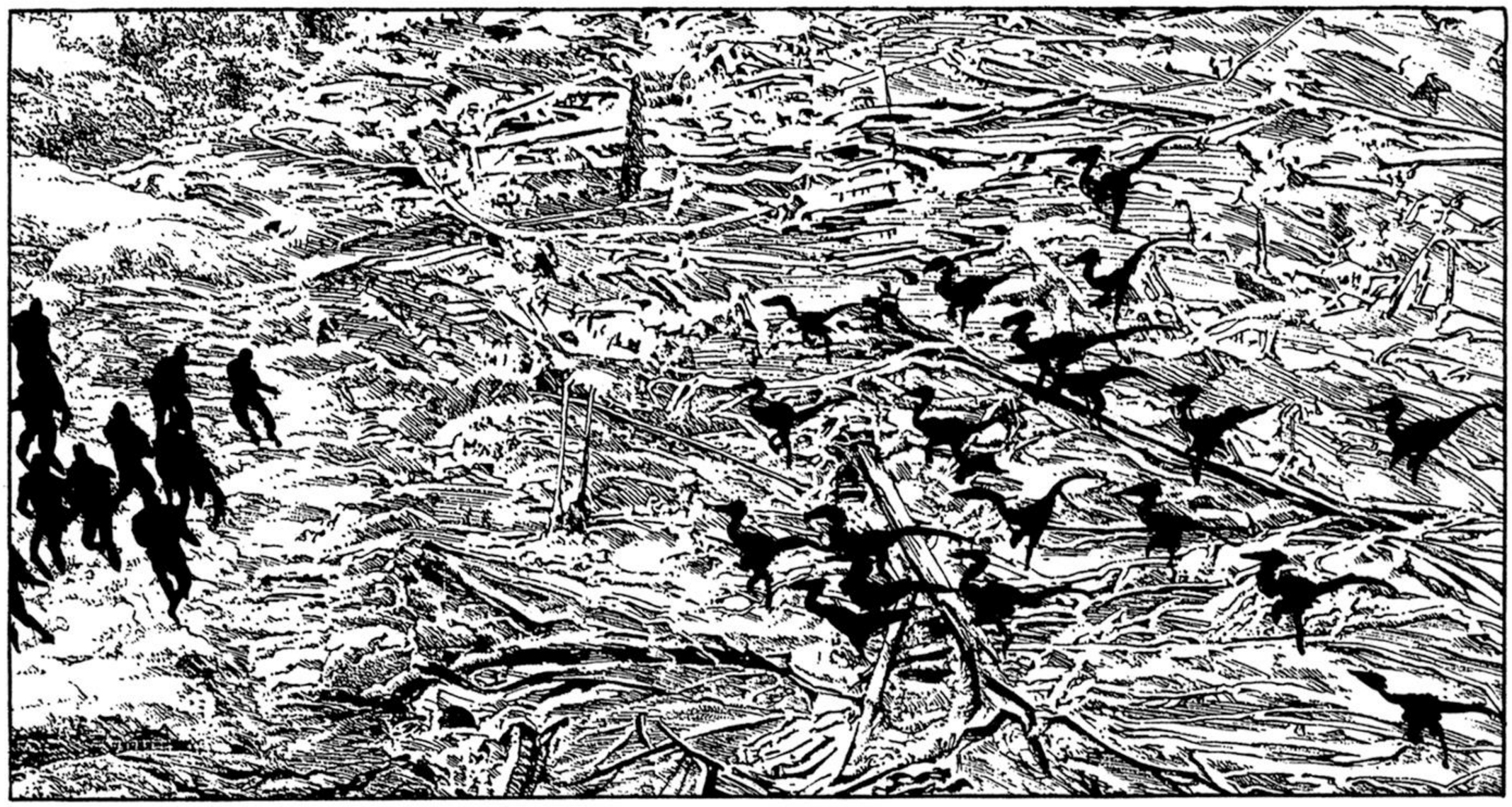
THEY ONLY EAT CARRION OR WEAKENED PREY. THESE ARE THE SPECIES THAT HAVE ADAPTED TO SURVIVE!

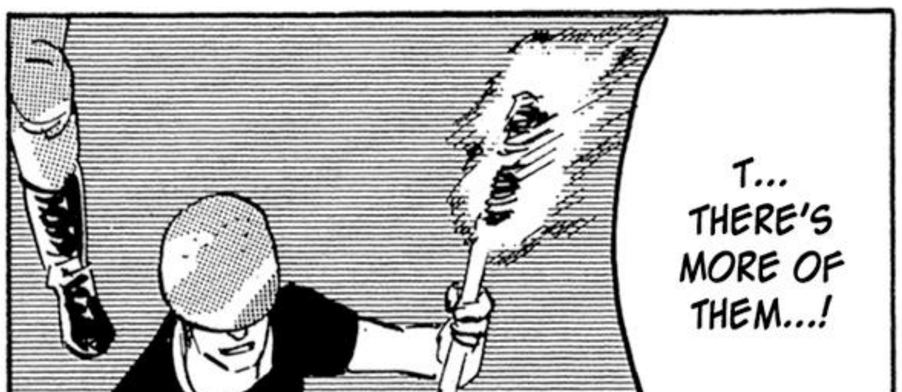
AHH...

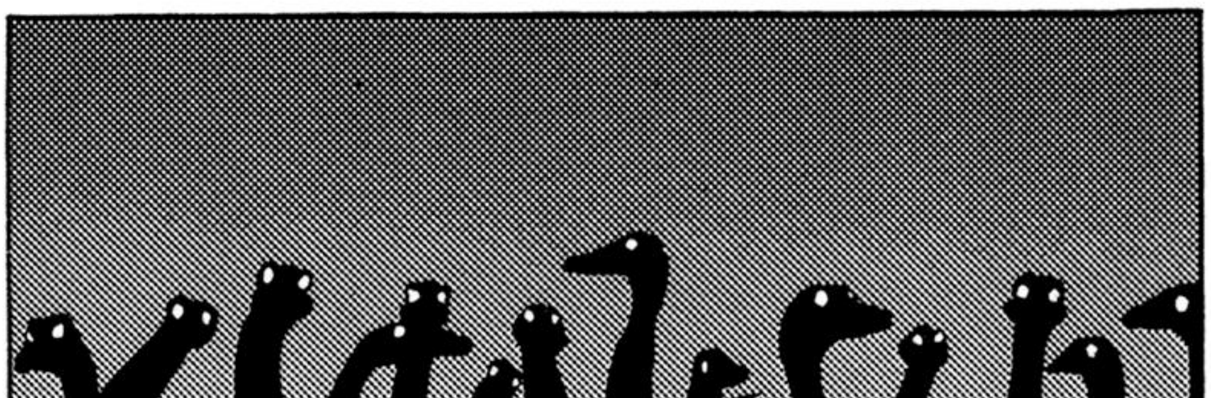
!

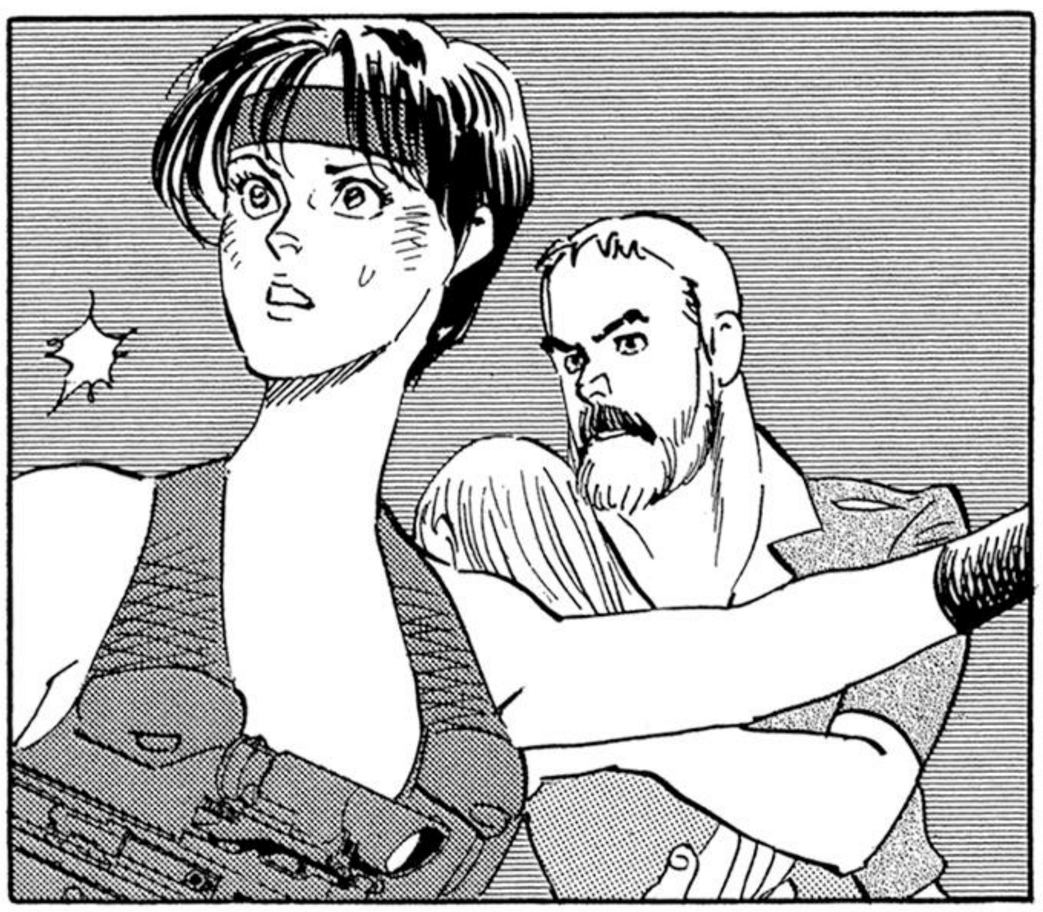
SERGEANT, TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT! WE NEED TO MAKE TORCHES!

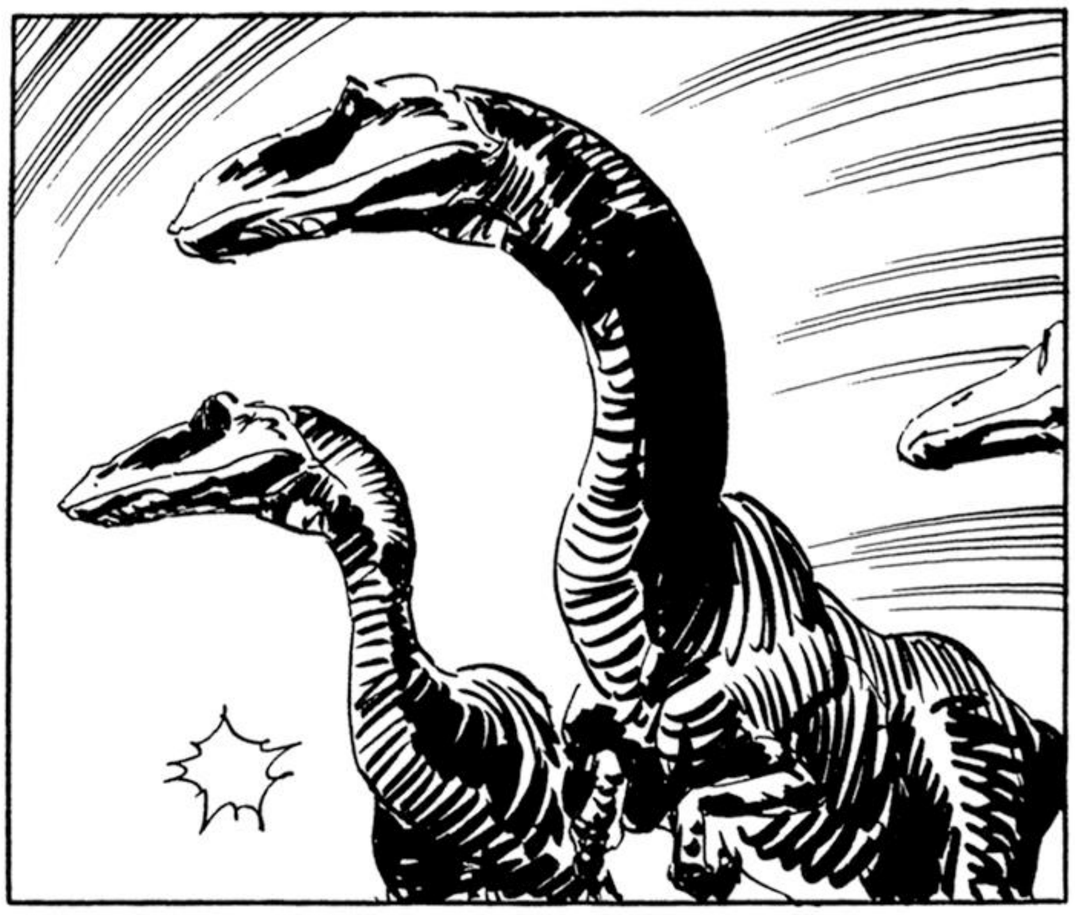
Y... YES, MA'AM!



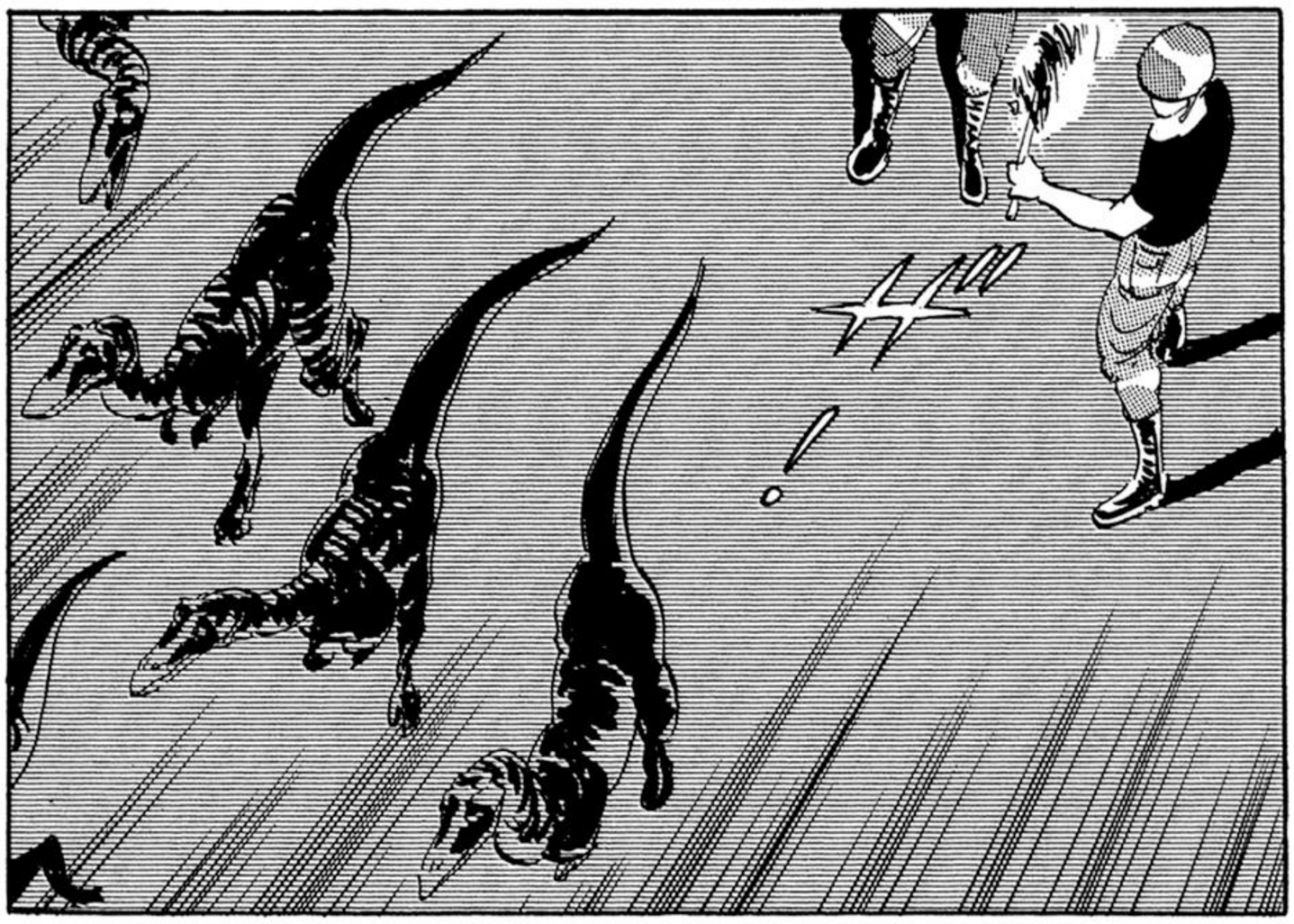

T... THERE'S MORE OF THEM...!
DAMMIT! THEY'RE WAITING FOR US TO TIRE OUT!

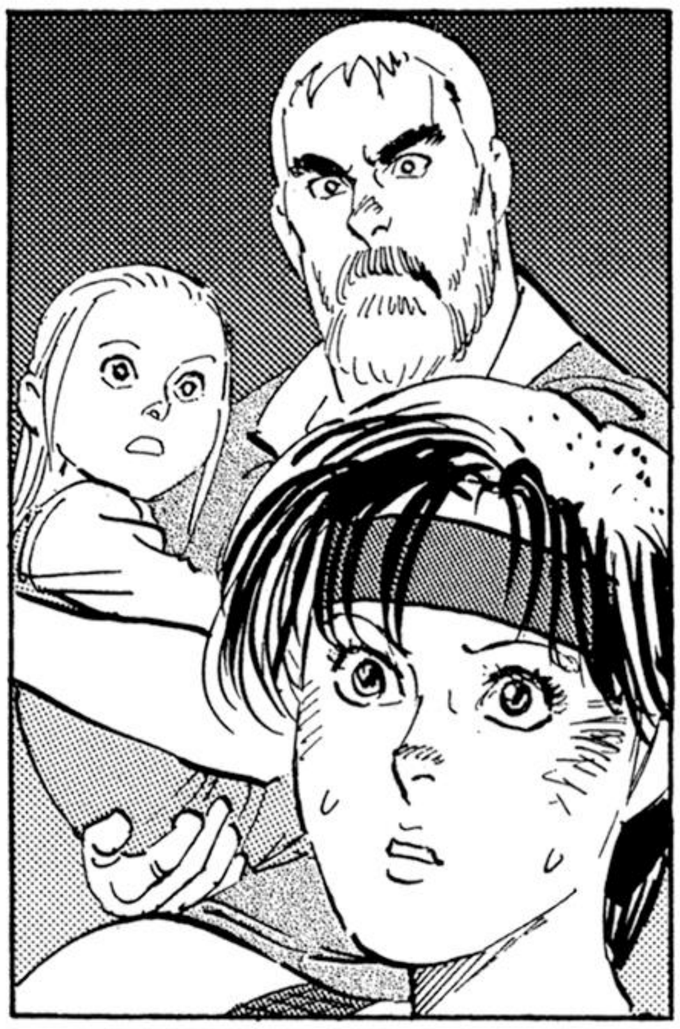






SKREEAAAHH!!





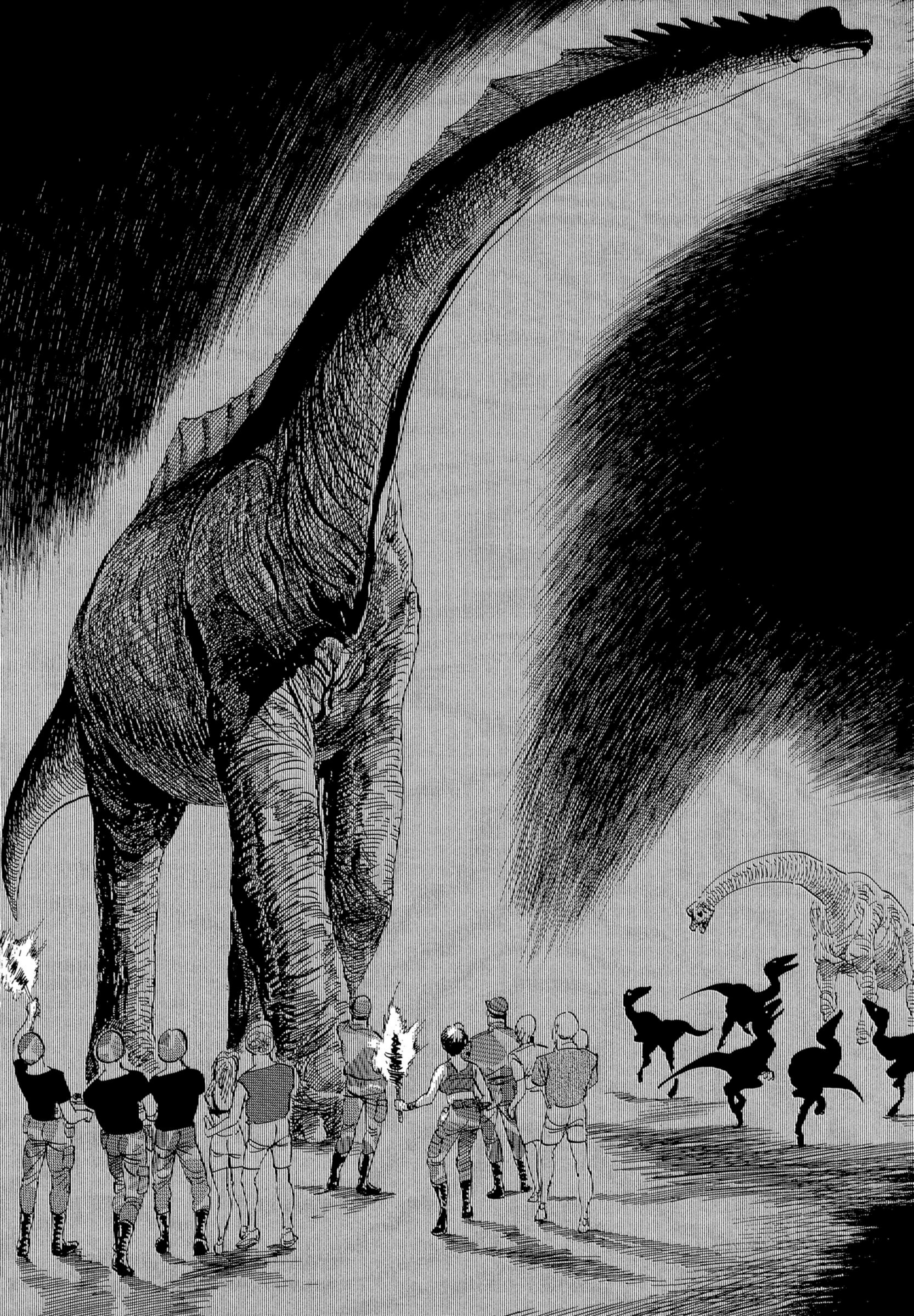
IT'S A SAUROPOD CHILD! IT MUST'VE GOTTEN SEPARATED FROM ITS HERD!

RUN! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO LOSE THEM!

SKREAAHH!!

CAN'T WE HELP IT, JEAN?

I WOULD IF I COULD, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO SPARE!



B... BRACHIO-SAURUS BRANCAI...!!

SKREEK!

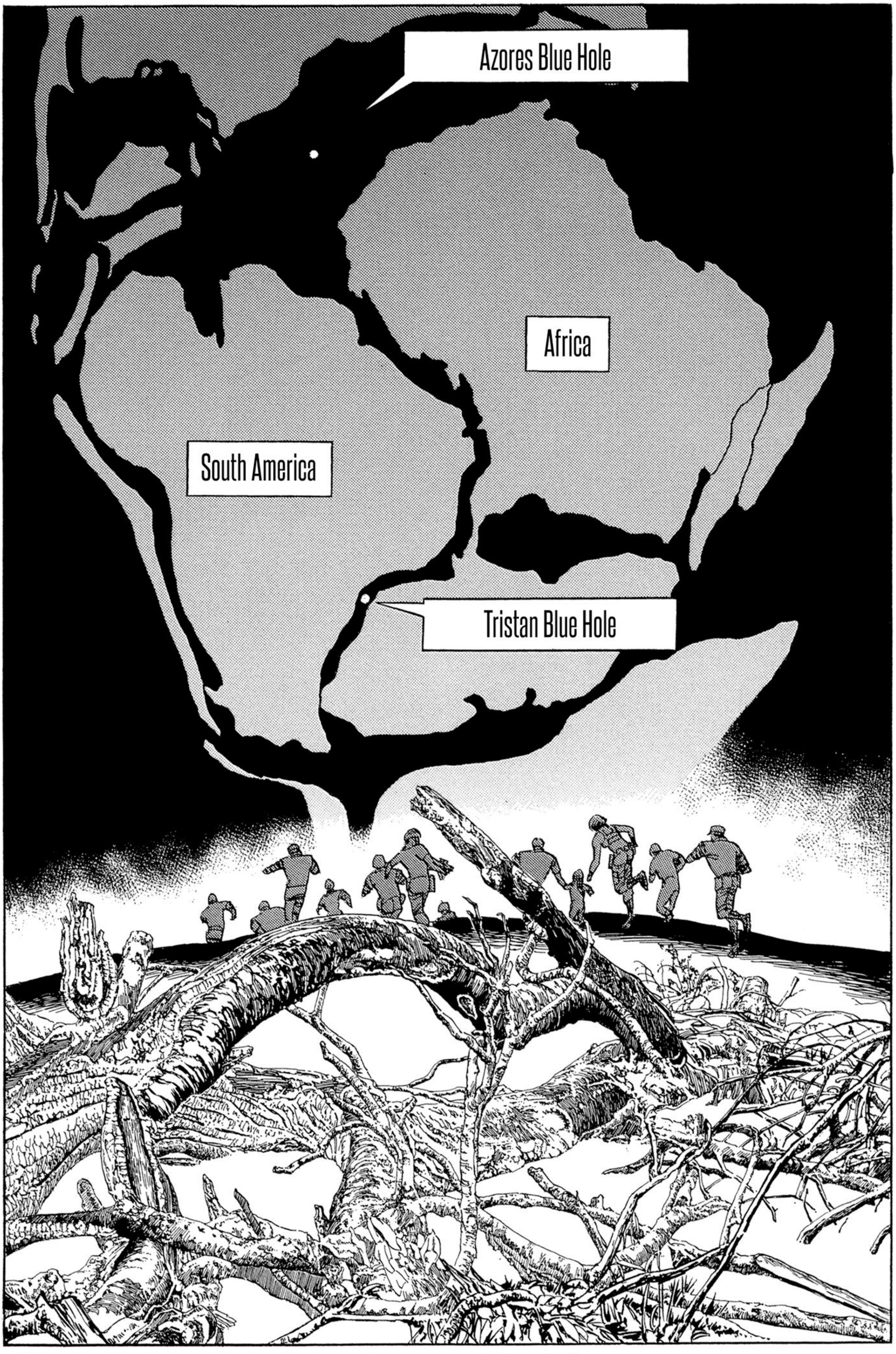
RARGHH!!

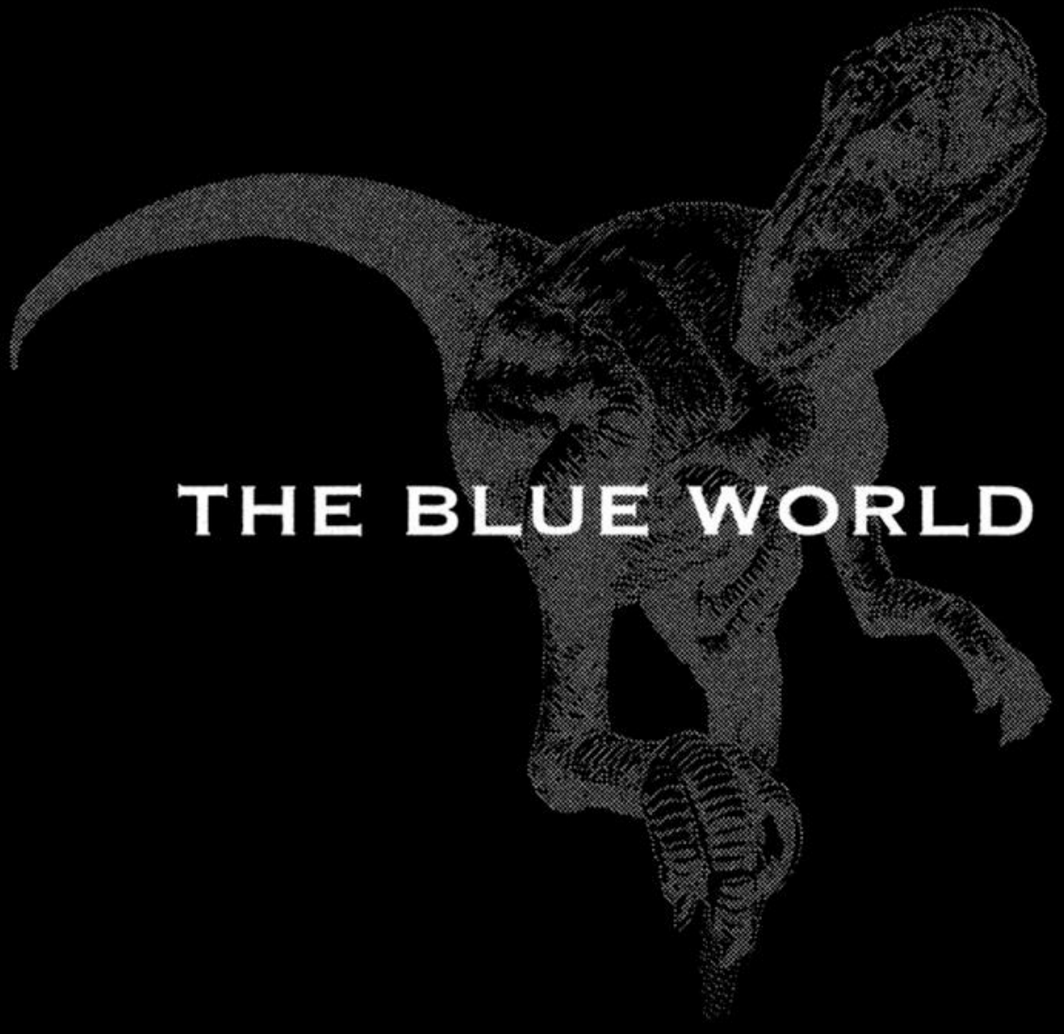
RARGHH!!

W... WAIT, ISN'T IT A HERBIVORE!?

IT'S STARVING!

H... HOW LONG WILL THIS HELL ON EARTH LAST...?
PUT OUT YOUR TORCHES!


Azores Blue Hole
Africa
South America
Tristan Blue Hole


THE BLUE WORLD

**Jurassic Period Dinosaur Encyclopedia**
(Strictly speaking, pterosaurs are not dinosaurs)

Barosaurus (Sauropod)

Criorhynchus (Pterosaur)

Rhamphorhynchus (Pterosaur)

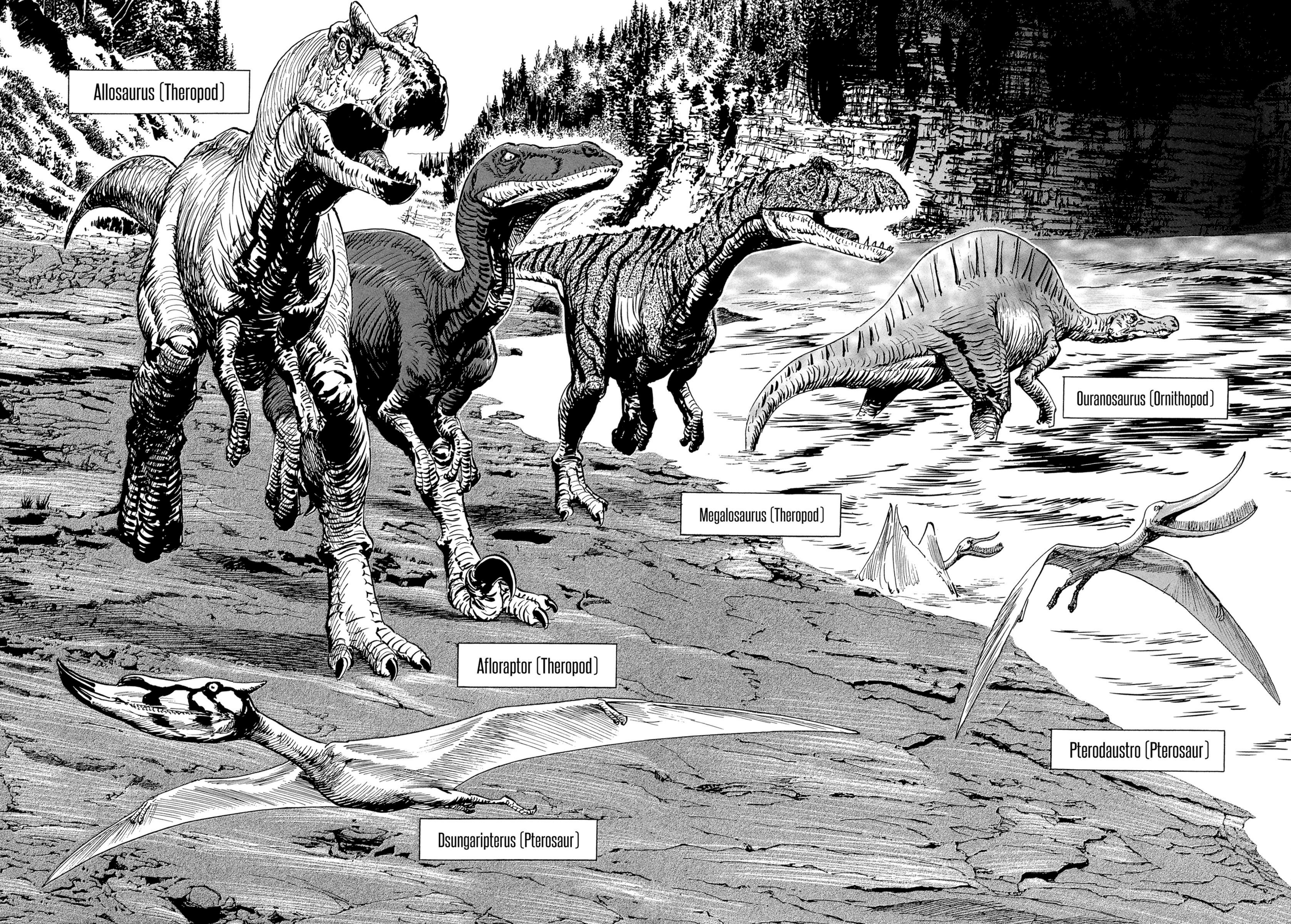
Giraffatitan (Sauropod)

Kentrosaurus (Stegosaur)

Archaeopteryx (Primitive bird)

Elaphrosaurus (Theropod)

Barosaurus (Sauropod)


Allosaurus (Theropod)
Ouranosaurus (Ornithopod)
Megalosaurus (Theropod)
Afloraptor (Theropod)
Pterodaustro (Pterosaur)
Dsungaripterus (Pterosaur)

The Extinction / End - Blue World Volume 2 / End

PIKA GRAPHIC

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